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newspaper



Issue No 95

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July 8, 2009

# MONEY MATTERS

Free supplement to help you beat the crunch



# 'CHARITY SAVED ME FROM A LIFE OF HEROIN HELL'

A FORMER heroin addict from Dover has paid tribute to a county charity that helped him sort out his life.

Alan (not his real name) had been on drugs for 30 years and spent time in prison when he was introduced to a support worker from the St Giles Trust's Children and Families Enterprise (CAFE) in Maidstone.

Alan, 49, says the charity, which aims to stop reoffending by working with offenders and disadvantaged families, has played a big part in stopping him from slipping back into his old ways.

He said: "I know I can never say I will be off drugs forever, but with the charity's help I think it's very possible.

■ BY MARIJKE COX

I've been clean for four-and-a-half years.

"I'd been on a number of programmes to help me after I left prison in 2004, but most of them finished after six months and then I had nowhere to turn.

"It's very difficult to make the right decisions and think for yourself at a time like that, making it a lot easier to relapse."

But in 2006 Alan, who lives with his wife and two daughters, was introduced to Michelle Gill, a support worker from the St Giles Trust, who helped him get his CV written up and find work.

She also counselled him through diffi-

cult times and assisted in getting him and his family rehoused.

Alan said: "Because of my connections to the area with my drug background, everywhere I went there were reminders.

"I'd bump into people related to my past, which makes it difficult to move on. Michelle helped get me rehoused so I could make a fresh start.

"She's done everything to help me, big or small, and the best thing is she has never judged me."

Since Alan made contact with the charity, he has done voluntary work and now has a job as a painter-and-decorator.

His wife has also been helped into work and when his daughter, who is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



## HAYLEY HONORARY CARNIVAL PRINCESS

The crowds chanted her name as 10-year-old Hayley Okines helped light up Saturday's Dover Carnival. Hayley suffers from Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome, which causes accelerated ageing, and she joined the Dover court for the parade. Money from the day's raffle will help her family pay for treatment. Hayley is pictured above with Miss Dover Loren Selby. FULL STORY PAGE 3



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**3** Gillingham defender Simon King talks about returning for pre-season training. Search 'Gills' at [Yourkenttv.co.uk](http://Yourkenttv.co.uk)

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# Chamber joining the fight to save town's businesses

■ BY MARIJKE COX

THE district's businesses are to get some much-needed support to help stem the shop closures that are blighting the town centre.

At an open meeting at Maison Dieu House, David Foley, the chief executive of Dover District Chamber of Commerce, vowed to make the district "blossom and flourish" and help those feeling the pinch.

He said: "The chamber is a practical organisation with its feet firmly on the ground of the marketplace and we should come forward with some down-to-earth proposals of immediate economic benefit."

In the past year, the number of small businesses closing down in Dover has spiralled as the full force of the economic downturn hit.

And the town centre management, which was set up to help trade and tourism boom, was shut down in March last year after vital funding was cut.

Since then, district councillor Roger Walkden has been campaigning for another group to be formed to help the town's floundering businesses.

At the chamber of commerce meeting, Mr Foley said the possibility of a support office was on the cards.

"This chamber is in discussions with its partners about exercising an expanding role in the town centre," he said.

"Our discussions have centred on establishing a physical presence in or near Market Square to act as a focus of business support – a Dover Centre Business Office.

"It will seek to serve not only retailers but all the diverse business interests in and around Dover and will offer a meeting point for inward investors."

Cllr Walkden said he was pleased to see commitment from the chamber



**BACKING:** Cllr Roger Warden has praised the district Chamber of Commerce's plans to support the town centre's ailing businesses

and praised Mr Foley for his proactive stance.

He said: "This is real evidence of support for people in the town and I'm pleased something positive is happening."

Cllr Walkden has previously hinted a new town centre management should be set up and he wants to be involved.

He said: "I'm happy to say that if this business centre starts up, I have been asked to run it. It's subject to funding at the moment, but I hope I can take on the position."

Mr Foley spoke of a business plan of which four out of seven main points had been achieved since its launch on June 1.

He added that Dover's progress has been recognised by major players in the business world, including Jim Braithwaite, chairman of South East England Development Agency, and French authorities across the Channel.

He said: "The feedback from France is that Dover is perceived as very much open to business and that it is a lot easier to set up a company here than over the water."

To contact the chamber of commerce, phone 01304 824955.

## Refugees shun offer of free UN advice at centre

A UNITED Nations centre offering advice to Dover-bound asylum-seekers has had only four enquiries a day in the month it has been open, it has been claimed.

The aim of the initiative is to encourage refugees not to risk their lives getting to England, but to instead seek asylum in France.

The office was set up in Calais by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and French asylum charity Terre d'Asile.

But reports in national newspapers have said that since its launch in May just 120 refugees have sought advice from the centre.

UNHCR spokeswoman, Laura Padoen, could not confirm the figures but told Yourdover it was still early days.

She said: "The centre has only been open since May. Our aim is to assess the situation and see how we can help. The main aim is to provide asylum-seekers with advice so they can make an informed decision."

"Britain is a magnet for them because of the social benefits, but they need to realise this is not their only option."

"The advice is given to try to protect refugees attempting to cross to Dover from people who want to exploit them, like human traffickers."

### Jungle

Some 800 refugees are living rough in Calais and still making daily attempts to try cross the Channel.

Many live on a patch of derelict land known as the Jungle, where groups have created makeshift homes. A further 800 are living near other ports on the northern coast of France.

Officials from UNHCR and Terre d'Asile are hoping advice given through the new asylum office – which has one member of staff – will convince refugees that it is better for them, and safer, to seek asylum in France.

According to French representatives, the scheme is already helping.

Marie Helene Senay, spokesman for Terre d'Asile, said the figure of four enquiries a day could be from the police headquarters, where asylum-seekers are received twice a week.

"From our point of view, with the fieldwork we do every day, we consider we have seen between around a quarter or third of all the Jungle's migrants," she said.

UNHCR can also allocate travel vouchers and clothing to help migrants return to their own countries.

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# Heroic Hayley honorary princess at the carnival

■ BY MARIKE COX

A YOUNG girl suffering from a terminal disease paraded through the crowds as an honorary princess at Dover Carnival.

Hayley Okines, 10, who suffers from Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome, which causes accelerated ageing, joined Miss Dover Loren Selby and her court at the parade on Saturday.

A film crew from Channel Five filmed the youngster for a documentary as she took part in court duties, including curtseys, wearing a princess dress and tiara, alongside the Mayor of Dover, Sue Jones.

## Amazing

Mandie Sehmbi, chairman of Dover Carnival Association Ltd, said it was the best carnival Dover had seen in 15 years.

"Hearing the crowds lining the streets of Dover chanting Hayley's name was just the most amazing feeling," she said.

The carnival-day raffle was dedicated to raising money for Hayley's family for treatment, and after reaching £865, Lee McCall from the Sheppey carnival committee promised to make the figure up to £1,000.

Mandie said: "I wasn't sure we could reach this amount, but all along the route I had cash donations and cheques, so to all those who did that, thank you."

"In the run-up to the day I had people turning up at my house with prizes and I would



**GUEST OF HONOUR:** Hayley Okine (in red at front) joined Miss Dover and her court for Saturday's parade and (inset) with carnival chief Mandie Sehmbi, who said that the event had been the best of its kind in Dover for 15 years

like to thank all those individuals for their kindness."

The Ramada Hotel in Dover hosted a pre-carnival meal and awards ceremony for the visiting courts.

Mandie said: "Dover really made a difference

to Hayley and her family and showed the true meaning of carnival and carnival spirit.

"I would like to thank Kent Fire and Rescue, Dover District Council, Kent Highways, Kent Police, Dover Town Council and the stewards, but most of all the Dover Carnival Committee."

## Charity in line to pick up 'Oscar'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

studying hairdressing at college, had her equipment stolen, the charity assisted in replacing it so she could continue her studies.

He said: "I think the whole organisation and what it stands for is marvellous."

And if any further endorsement were needed, the St Giles Trust, which is funded by Kent Probation and Kent County Council, won the social care and welfare section in this year's Charity Awards.

## Thrilled

Chief executive Ron Owen said he was extremely grateful to his team for all their work.

"I'm thrilled that we have won and been shortlisted in these awards – they are effectively the Oscars of the charity sector."

The current reoffending rate for individuals who have joined the St Giles Trust project is ten per cent, against a national rate of 55 per cent.

• For more information on the support offered by the trust, visit [www.stgilestrust.org.uk](http://www.stgilestrust.org.uk).

## School worker jailed after admitting sex offences with girl, 13

A FORMER school support worker from Dover has been jailed for sexual offences involving a girl aged just 13.

Shaun Burford, 41, of Coombe Valley Road, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday after admitting two charges at an earlier hearing.

He admitted causing a girl of 13 to engage in sexual activity and causing her to look at an image of sexual activity contrary to the Sexual Offences Act.

A police spokesman confirmed that Burford, who had previously worked at Christ Church School in Ashford as a pastoral care manager, had received a six-month sentence.

He will be on probation for three of the months.

Burford, who is now on the sex offenders register, had been under investigation by the Ashford Child Abuse Investigation Unit since January 2008 after allegations were made against him.

Detective Constable Kath Way was

pleased the case had reached a successful conclusion.

She said: "The fact he was given a custodial sentence shows the seriousness of the offence, which represents a significant abuse of trust by an individual in authority."

A former friend of Burford told this newspaper it was a shock to everyone when they found out about the allegations against him.

According to the source – who asked not to be named – Burford had been "kind and trusting" and many felt betrayed when they heard the allegations.

"We didn't know why he was leaving his job at the school. It was only when we saw in local papers what he was accused of that we found out."

"It makes me feel horrible to think I trusted him and yet the whole time he was taking advantage of children."

"It's really not something you expect to find out about someone who you know well and trust."



PRISON: Shaun Burford

## Motorbike menace targeted by police

NUISANCE bikers in Dover are being warned they could have their vehicles confiscated if they cause trouble.

The warning follows an incident in Lewisham Road, Dover, in which PCSO Jason Brett, who was on patrol outside River Primary School, pulled over a 15-year-old on a mini-motorbike.

The youngster was riding without insurance and the bike was not roadworthy, so police seized the vehicle. The rider could be summoned to court if it is found further offences have been committed.

Kent Police and the Dover Community Safety Unit are using Operation Freedown, which was launched in 2002, to target nuisance riders.

Off-road bike teams and neighbourhood officers will patrol areas used by bikers.

Sgt Guy Thompson of the Community Safety Unit said: "We will be out targeting nuisance and illegal riding during the summer, so if it is a problem where you live, contact your neighbourhood officer and give them the details."

You can find out who your neighbourhood officer is at [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk).

## Project to boost live entertainment

A NEW venture has been set up in Dover to bring live entertainment opportunities to the town.

The project, called DoverLive, has been organised by district councillor John Goodwin and the vice-chairman of the Dover Regatta, Gill Gough.

On Saturday, September 5, comedian Richard Digance will appear at Dover Town Hall for a night of nostalgic comedy.

He will be joined by Louise Orfila and Kent band Rags to Riches.

Tickets are £15 and £10 and available by calling 01304 212277 or 07765 514 078.

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After Midnight



## Did you see teen cyclist knocked off his vehicle?

POLICE in Sandwich are appealing for witnesses after a teenager boy was deliberately knocked off his bike.

The 15-year-old was cycling along Gilliard Street at about 10pm on Monday, June 22, when a car pulled up next to him and a passenger grabbed his handlebars.

A few minutes later the car pulled out of St Bart's Road and did the same thing, leaving the boy with cuts and bruises.

The car is a red or burgundy saloon like a Renault with a large bore exhaust. It was being driven by a white man, with a girl in the front and a man, aged about 20, in the back. Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Sion Williams on 01304 240055 or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Delays on A20 during work to improve lay-by

WORK has started to improve a lay-by on the A20 at Capel-le-Ferne near Dover.

The work will be carried out between 7.30pm and 5am Monday to Friday and the lay-by will remain closed. Overnight closures will be put in place on the inside lane of the London-bound A20 and a temporary 50mph speed limit at times.

## Driver accused of failing to stop after accident

A DOVER man has been arrested for allegedly failing to stop after an accident.

Kevin Barton, 30, of Folkestone Road, was arrested on Sunday, June 28, by officers in Dover. He was charged with two counts of failing to stop after two cars were allegedly damaged in Eton Road, Dover.

He was also charged with drink-driving and released on bail to appear before Folkestone Magistrates on Friday, July 10.

## Lifeboat rescues crew after their mast snaps

YACHTSMEN out in the English Channel were saved by the crew of the Dover lifeboat after their mast snapped.

The sailors managed to cut the mast free and plug the hole in the deck with fabric until the RNLI could reach them.

They were towed into Dover harbour by the lifeboat and berthed in the marina. The coastguard emergency towing vessel picked up the mast in case it was a hazard.

# Ex-footballer now masseur to the stars

■ BY MARIJKE COX

"The entire treatment is done laying face up on two pillows filled with soothing warm water, so there's no turning over, no uncomfortable face holes and no pressure on the ribs.

"This means pregnant women or people who may have had surgery on their front can have a massage."

Hydrotherm is now the preferred choice for many and Ben's clients from London have already come down to Wallett's Court for the specialised treatment.

He said: "People in Kent need to find us quickly, before we get booked up with people from London."

Visitors to the hotel and spa can also find a selection of other treatments, including auricular acupuncture, hot stone therapy and reflexology.

A range of products from REN, which is the UK's leading natural skincare company, are used during sessions.

Owner Gavin Oakley said: "Wallett's Court has always prided itself on its green credentials so the introduction of our new range of REN products and more holistic treatments was the perfect progression."



**SPA STAR:** Ben Barnett has used his Hydrotherm massage system to treat celebrities like Kylie Minogue

The final trick up Ben's sleeve is to bring in a new concept called "Glamping" – or glamorous camping, where guests can stay in a luxury teepee in the hotel's grounds and get back to nature.

For full details of spa treatments and packages visit [www.wallettscourt.com](http://www.wallettscourt.com) and to book email [spa@wallettscourt.com](mailto:spa@wallettscourt.com) or call 01304 852424.



## PCSO's invitation to youngsters

A PCSO in Sandwich is inviting young people to discuss their concerns about crime.

Drop-in surgeries are being held by PCSO Ian Norton at Sandwich Technology School between 11am and 1pm on Wednesday, July 8.

He hopes it will give youngsters the chance to talk about bullying and crime and give him an insight into issues affecting young people.

He said: "They might see PACT meetings and other surgeries as being only for adults, so this

is a way of making it easier for them to discuss their issues.

"Young people are an important part of our local community and I think it's important for us to listen to what they have to say and give them that opportunity."

Anyone who is unable to get to the surgery can contact PCSO Norton on 01304 218031 or 07972 004421 or email him at [ian.norton@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ian.norton@kent.pnn.police.uk).



**PERSISTENT:** The ravens have braved attacks by the local gulls to rear three fledglings on the White Cliffs

# Ravens first to breed in Kent for 120 years

A PAIR of ravens nesting on the White Cliffs of Dover have become the first to breed in Kent in almost 120 years.

The feisty birds took up residence along the 12-mile stretch and saw off resident gulls who tried to mob their nest.

Despite the constant harassment, the ravens successfully reared three fledglings in a secret location on the cliffs – the first since 1890, according to the Kent Ornithological Trust.

But their exact whereabouts is being kept under wraps by experts who hope they will come back to breed again next year.

Crispin Scott, nature conservation advisor for the National Trust in the south east, said it was unusual to see ravens so far from their usual breeding ground.

"They normally breed in the west and north of the UK and although most birds are residents, some birds will wander from their breeding areas, but not normally as far as the south east," he said.

"It is a rare treat to see them here and even more of a pleasure to see them breed here."

The land on the white cliffs, which is owned

■ BY MARIJKE COX

and cared for by the National Trust, is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation, meaning it is an important place of preservation on a European scale.

Simon Ovenden, property manager of the land, said management of the site is geared towards improving the habitat and biodiversity.

"Although we can't claim we influenced the decision of the ravens to nest along the cliffs, it is pleasing to add another species to the list of birds that nest at this world famous conservation site," he said.

"Through our work we aim to encourage new species to colonise the area and increase the populations of species that are already here, so we're really happy to see ravens breeding, especially as it's not been known in Kent for a long time."

Mr Ovenden said the birds managed to survive the seagulls despite being mobbed by them.

"The three pairs of Peregrine falcons also nesting in the cliffs seemed less bothered by the unexpected guests though," he added.

## Olympic champion gives push to cyclists

SPORTING hero Jamie Staff has paid a visit to Lydden race circuit near Dover to watch youngsters being put through their paces.

The cycling star, who won gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, chatted with the riders before the race, in aid of Leukaemia Research.

Jamie, who lives in Ashford, said: "It was great to meet so many enthusiastic young cyclists who were prepared to get on their bikes to raise money for a great cause."

Among the cyclists was 14-year-old Andrew Wicks, who is undergoing treatment for leukaemia. He was expected to ride one circuit of the race track, but managed to complete four laps. Dad Mick said meeting the cycling legend was a real boost for his son.



**BOOST:** Olympic hero Jamie Staff with some of the young riders and organisers

## yourdover NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cash incentive to recruit

A BUSINESS in Dover has become the first in Kent to take a 'golden hello' offer from Jobcentre Plus.

The scheme gives companies a recruitment and training subsidy to encourage them to take on people who have been out of a job for six months or more.

Dover Marquee Company is the first to take advantage of the offer by taking on three new members of staff.

Managing director Peter King said: "This definitely encouraged me to take on people earlier than I would have expected."

Lawrence Loram, one of the new recruits, said he had been out of work for six months.

"My Jobcentre advisor showed me how much better off I would be in work," he said.

Wendy Hawthorne, from Dover Jobcentre Plus, said: "We take steps to help people get ready for work."

For details visit [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk).

## Drama on ferry crossings

PASSENGERS on the SeaFrance Berlioz were given an unexpected treat with a free performance of Shakespeare and Moliere.

Les Anonymes staged the show in Le Parisien Cafe on the Dover to Calais crossing, with Shakespeare performed in French and Moliere in English.

Passengers can see the shows on Saturday, July 25, with the Shakespeare on the SeaFrance Rodin, leaving Calais at 11.15am, and Moliere on the SeaFrance Rodin leaving Dover at 12.25pm. Visit [www.seafrance.com](http://www.seafrance.com) or call 0871 2222500

### Paper bin to help charity

A NEW paper recycling initiative has been set up by the town and district councils.

The scheme, created via the Dover Visitor Information Centre and Parking Services, will see a combined recycling bin close to the three establishments. The contents will be sold for recycling with profits going to a Dover charity.

For the first year, the Mayor of Dover's Goodwill Fund, which benefits good causes in Dover, is the chosen charity.

Mayor of Dover, Cllr Sue Jones, said: "I preach greenness awareness whenever possible, so it's good to practice what we preach."

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Saturday 25th In Dreams  
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Friday 31st The Real Thing

**AUGUST 2009**  
Sunday 2nd Margate Carnival Dance

**SEPTEMBER 2009**  
Tuesday 1st Paul Potts in Concert  
Saturday 5th Mr Wonderful

**OCTOBER 2009**  
Sunday 13th Chaz 'n' Dave  
Friday 18th Mandy Winters - The Concert  
Saturday 19th Disco Inferno 13  
Saturday 3rd Dancing Days  
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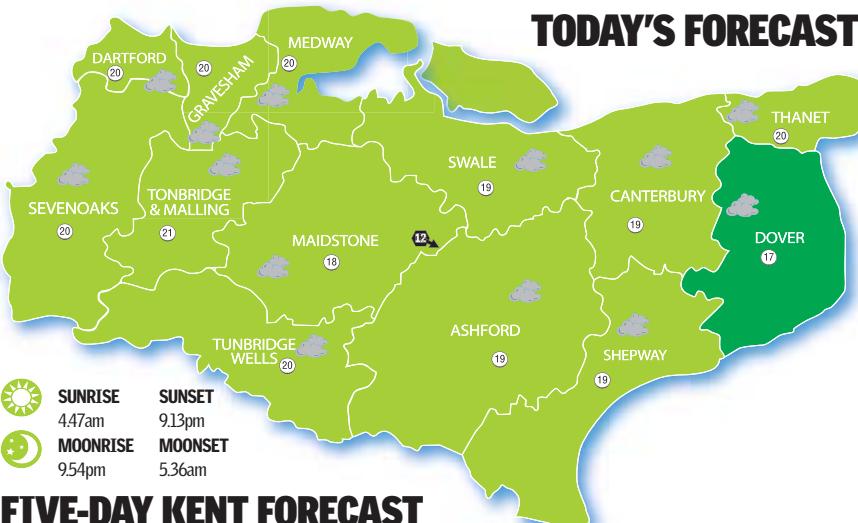
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## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

<b>Chatham</b>	Saturday	4:00pm	5.7m
	Sunday	4:32pm	5.7m
<b>Dover</b>	Saturday	2:23pm	6.4m
	Sunday	2:54pm	6.3m
<b>Dungeness</b>	Saturday	2:13pm	7.3m
	Sunday	2:45pm	7.3m
<b>Ramsgate</b>	Saturday	2:53pm	4.8m
	Sunday	3:24pm	4.8m
<b>Sheerness</b>	Saturday	3:50pm	5.5m
	Sunday	4:22pm	5.4m
<b>Whitstable</b>	Saturday	3:46pm	5.1m
	Sunday	4:16pm	5.0m

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		
Ashford	19°C	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Gravesend	20°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Canterbury	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Maidstone	19°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Chatham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Ramsgate	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Dartford	20°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Rochester	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C
Dover	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Sevenoaks	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Faversham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C
Folkestone	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Tonbridge	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Gillingham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Tun Wells	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	22°C	Madrid	29°C
Athens	26°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	28°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	28°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	27°C
Cardiff	16°C	Tokyo	24°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	21°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	24°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	9°C

## Witness appeal after 1938 family heirloom bike stolen

POLICE are appealing for information about a missing bike taken from the basement of some flats in Walmer.

The black and white Royal Enfield 1938 bike was stolen from premises in Archery Square between 8pm on Friday, June 26, and 10am on Saturday, June 27.

It has a Brooks saddle and a fixed wheel which means it has no gears and the pedals are fixed in rotation to the back wheel. It is not possible to freewheel the bike. Its owners have said it has sentimental value to the family.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Kent Police on 01304 240055 or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Author brings his tales alive during school visit

CHILDREN'S author David Miller has paid a visit to Dover Grammar School for Boys to talk about his new book *Shark Island*.

The event, which was organised by The Sandwich Bookshop, gave Year 7 and Year 8 pupils the chance to hear about his worldwide travels and the first in his series of children's books set in the Far East.

He brought with him a Malaysian blow-pipe and the poisoned darts used by native Indians for hunting.

The talk was accompanied by a slide show of his recent expedition in Borneo.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### CHRIS HOGBEN



**Q & A**

**Marijke Cox** talks to Chief Superintendent Chris Hogben, Kent Police's South Kent area commander, about the changes he has seen in policing and the most exciting case in which he has been involved

**Q** Had you always wanted to work in the police force?

**A** I have to be honest and say no, it wasn't my first choice. I came into policing after failing the three-day interview for a flying commission with the RAF. Before I had a chance to consider other military options I was accepted by the police and have never looked back.

**Q** What were your main reasons for joining?

**A** The idea of bringing criminals to book certainly appealed to me, as did the idea of making a difference on behalf of the local community. I would also add that in 1984 police pay and conditions were pretty good!

**Q** Where did you first start out policing?

**A** My first station was Ramsgate, where I started as a newly-qualified police constable in January 1985.

**Q** How different is your job compared with your early days with the force?

**A** As a young PC I worked on the front line and really enjoyed dealing with a range of criminal offences and putting a robust policing style into practice.

Almost all of my service has been at area level, with the role becoming more managerial as I have risen through the ranks. The basic philosophy of policing can be summarised by our motto, which is 'Protecting and Serving

the people of Kent', and that is what we are committed to do.

**Q** What is the best thing about your job?

**A** I like the fact that each new day brings new challenges. I'm lucky that I work with an enthusiastic management team who enjoy finding solutions to the problems we face.

**Q** What is the most challenging thing about your job?

**A** Clearly the delivery of improving performance is always a challenge, but we are enjoying real success.

The biggest challenge for me probably revolves around continuing to improve the service that we provide to the various communities across south Kent in the face of a rapidly changing economic climate.

**Q** What are the main issues dealt with by police in the south Kent area?

**A** When I talk to members of the community their main concerns centre on low-level antisocial behaviour and quality-of-life issues. So while continuing to reduce crime is important, dealing with antisocial behaviour is probably one of our biggest priorities.

**Q** Do you think the launch of the safer seasons campaigns have helped deal with problems in the area?

**A** I think it is really helpful for our officers to be focused on particular issues that need to

be addressed and to ensure that the public knows that we are focusing on what is important to them. The safer seasons campaign delivers this and in recent campaigns we have seen significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour.

**Q** How safe is south Kent in relation to the rest of Kent?

**A** South Kent is a safe place for people to live and work. We have very little street-related violence, in particular assaults committed by strangers. Domestic violence continues to be an issue that we and our partners are working together to resolve. Anyone committing a violent crime is more likely to be brought to justice in south Kent.

**Q** What is the most exciting case you have worked on in your job?

**A** Although I have dealt with a number of murder investigations, the most interesting case related to a robbery in which mobile phones with a street value of £7 million were stolen.

While the offence took place in Dover, much of the investigation took place abroad. This included seven days when my detective sergeant and I worked in Singapore. It was the most complex, difficult and lengthy investigations that I have ever been involved with and led to two people receiving lengthy jail sentences in the UK and the recovery of a large number of the stolen phones.

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Thurs 16th	Sluis	£33.00
Sun 19th	Whitstable Oyster Festival	£9.50
Mon 20th	St Omer by Ferry	£23.00
Wed 22nd	Cambridge & Sightseeing Tour	£28.00
Wed 22nd	Lullingstone Castle and Lavender Farm	£26.00
Sat 25th	Le Touquet by Ferry	£24.00
Sun 26th	Drusillas	£25.00
Thurs 30th	Boulogne	£23.00
Fri 31st	Chessington World Of Adventures, Zoo & Sealife Centre	£35.00

<b>August (cont...)</b>		
Tue 18th	Portsmouth	£18.50
Thu 20th	Legoland	£31.50
Sat 22nd	Wembley Stadium Tour	£33.00
Sat 22nd	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00
Mon 24th	Bluewater or Lakeside	£16.50
Thu 27th	Boulogne	£23.00
Fri 28th	Thorpe Park	£39.00
Sat 29th	Brussels	£31.00
Sun 30th	Diggerland	£23.00
Mon 31st	Walking With Dinosaurs	£50.00
	The Arena Spectacular	

<b>September</b>		
Wed 2nd	Buckingham Palace	£33.00
Sat 5th	Ostend	£24.00
Sun 6th	Duxford Air Show	£39.00
Mon 7th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00
Thu 10th	BBC Television Tour	£23.50
Fri 11th	Boulogne and Le Touquet (2 Days 1 Night)	£74.00
Sat 12th	Le Touquet	£24.50
Mon 13th	Walpole Museum & Shell Grotto	£14.50
Wed 15th	Arras	£27.00
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Paul Clark talks about the effect of the high-speed rail link in Kent. Search 'rail'



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Ian Sharpe and Victoria Lawrence perform a rhumba. Search 'Strictly'



Dave Lee's celebrity golf day will raise cash for charity. Search 'Lee'

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

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# Star's art shoots through museum

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

STUFFED animals flying out of a Victorian contraption and a Siamese serpent are among the exhibits in a surreal show by comedian Vic Reeves.

In The Natural History of Kent and Sussex Through My Binoculars, which opened yesterday at the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery, the purveyor of the bizarre is leaving the meaning of it all up to viewers.

Reeves, who lives in Charing, near Ashford, with his wife Nancy Sorrell and their twins, has created six new paintings for the show that he has combined with objects and artefacts from the museum's collection.

Asked whether the pictures were produced in response to what he found when rifling through the museum's wide-ranging archives, he said: "It was a bit of both, after I did the pictures I picked some other things as well."

"I'm putting up shelves under each painting and there will be objects that will link directly or indirectly with the painting."

"People can make their own links. People spend a lot of time wanting to be told what to think about something. I'm assuming people will want to know what it is all about, but my lips are keeping firmly shut."

The 50 year old is probably most famous for Shooting Stars, the BBC TV comedy quiz show

he presented along with Bob Mortimer in the 1990s and which is due to make a comeback this August.

But the keen birdwatcher and prolific artist – he is publishing a book filled with 260 of his illustrations later this year – has exhibited his paintings and drawings at several commercial galleries.

Reeves, who said his artistic life has worked alongside his comedy throughout his career, described some of the objects he chose.

"I suppose I'm fond of stuffed animals and birds, as well as the live ones," he said. "All that Victoriana, they would stuff anything they saw... I've always been interested in insects in museums since I was young. That was the first thing I looked for."

### Transformation

As he spoke to KOS Media this week Reeves was busy setting up the show. He said: "They (the stuffed animals) are all flying out of a Victorian bath chair."

"They hit the ground and turn into humming birds that spread out coming together. I was working out how it would fit together nine months ago and now I'm putting it all into place."

Asked what kind of reaction he wanted, he said: "Probably tearing people away from the obvious. It'll be interesting to see."

Reeves remained tight-lipped about his pictures and what they might mean.

Quizzed over the use of stormy clouds and threatening skies, he said: "I got some new acrylic sprays and I was messing about with it

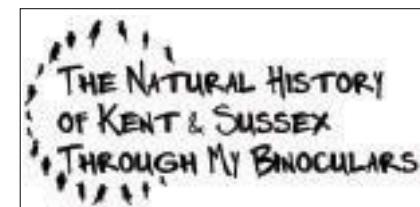


**BE INSPIRED:** Comedian Vic Reeves wants visitors to his exhibition to make their own minds up about his work

and I and thought it made nice clouds and I've got a bit of a thing about clouds. One of the great things about art is that you can see whatever you want to see and think whatever you want about it."

One painting shows a serpent joined in the middle with two heads with two sets of human eyes and lips. The work was inspired by an object in the museum's collection.

He said: "It [the show] is quite random, there is nothing particularly that ties it, but I suppose the general theme could be ways of looking at things."



Reeves came straight to the museum after filming Shooting Stars and said it was not that big a leap in the type of material he was dealing with.

Is he hoping to attract a different and perhaps younger audience to the museum? He added: "I don't know who'll see it, museum goers, tourists..."

"There was a lady outside this morning who said, 'can I bring my kids or is it adult themed' and I said there is nothing particularly adult or dodgy."

The show will run until Saturday, August 29.

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#### What to do and see

Thinking of where to take the kids during the summer holidays? Here are a few ideas all within one hours' drive of Calais

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**Le Touquet:** With miles of wide sandy golden beaches you have virtually every conceivable outdoor activity catered for including sand yachting on one of the longest beaches in Northern France. **Aqualud waterpark.** The biggest amusement water park in Northern France, located on the French coast "Côte d'Opale" at Le Touquet.

**St. Omer Area:** The Flemish town of Saint-Omer stands on a hillside on the edge of the River Aa marshes, less than 30 miles from Calais. The large square in the town holds a weekly market on Saturday mornings, selling fresh local produce from the farms on the marshes. A branch of the river runs through the lower part of the town and a boat trip is an ideal way of seeing the 13th Century Abbey, houses and remarkable open countryside. Or you can visit the fantastic underground World War 2 museum nearby at La Coupole, the site of the V2 rocket in Helfaut and the Eperlecques Bunker are two of the great relics of the Second World War in Europe, that can be visited now as History and Remembrance Centres.

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# Flavour of summer is right on your doorstep

WITH the arrival of summer sunshine, I am eating more salads, and am thrilled that the British tomato season is upon us.

Although tomatoes are available throughout the year, it is only in recent weeks that local varieties have ripened and there really is no comparison between the flavourless tomatoes available during winter and the sweet, tangy and delicious British varieties.

If you're a gardener your tomato plants should be doing well and you'll soon see the first signs of flowers or fruit. If not, you need to track down some local Kentish tomatoes.

Those provided by [www.foodforkent.co.uk](http://www.foodforkent.co.uk) are grown by Brian and Lorraine Watts, who run the Leonard Ironside nursery at Farthing Common, Lyminge, which I visited last month.

Brian has been growing tomatoes since 1974, and it was fascinating to find out what is involved.

His nursery comprises four, one-acre glasshouses, containing about 35,000 tomato plants. Brian currently grows 10 different varieties, ranging from traditional vine and plum to cherry and beef tomatoes. The tomato seedlings are planted in November in what looks like giant grow bags filled with coir, which is shredded coconut husk – a much more environmentally-sound choice than traditional peat.

**In the first part of a regular series of articles, healthy-eating expert ABBY DYSON – who writes about cooking and seasonal, healthy food at [www.eattherightstuff.com](http://www.eattherightstuff.com) – discusses her recent visit to the county to experience the delights of Kentish tomatoes.**



Brian explained how the environment in the glasshouses is carefully monitored to create optimum growing conditions.

The temperature is varied depending on how bright a day it is – on sunny days the plants grow fast and need extra warmth, whereas on an overcast day less heat is required as they are growing more slowly.

Just as important is keeping the glasshouses well ventilated, so that disease, which flourishes in warm damp environments, is kept at bay and condensation doesn't form which might cause blemishes on the tomatoes. Carbon dioxide, a by-product of

the heating system, is pumped into the glasshouses to encourage better growth.

One of the most interesting things about visiting the nursery was learning about the bugs and bees which Brian deploys to help him grow the tomatoes.

Each glasshouse contains a number of bee hives housing bumble bees that pollinate the tomatoes.

This is a far cry from the techniques used in yesteryear, which saw farmers use a vibrating metal rod to "tickle" each flower so that the pollen was dislodged.

The bees are introduced when the first

flowers appear – usually just after Christmas – and continue their work until the end of the growing season in the autumn.

Brian also uses predator insects. The plants are regularly inspected by white-coated scientists and any sign of pests is noted. Predator insects are then introduced which target and eliminate these pests.

It's a wonderful example of working with Mother Nature and as a result of this approach Brian's tomatoes are grown without the use of pesticides, fungicides or insecticides.

Each glasshouse contains 500 rows of tomatoes and from March, when the plants start producing fruit – it takes eight weeks from pollination to a tomato being ready to pick – each row is picked every other day, six days a week.

The tomatoes are put straight into the boxes in which they are sold so that they are handled as little as possible.

Unusually, they are not put into cold storage but go straight to the people who are buying them so that the time between picking and selling is kept short.

The result is flavoursome Kentish tomatoes which are well worth tracking down.



## Abby's double tomato and courgette pasta

(Serves 2)

Pasta for two – penne works well

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 large clove garlic, crushed

2 courgettes, cut into discs

1 tablespoon of sun-dried tomatoes, softened in boiling water and cut into thin strips

Juice of half a lemon

15-20 cherry tomatoes, halved

A handful of basil leaves, shredded

1 tablespoon of toasted pine nuts

Parmesan cheese, to serve

Put the pasta on to cook.

Fry the garlic in olive oil and when you start to smell it, add the courgette.

Turn the heat up and cook, stirring regularly, until the courgette begins to soften. Keep the heat high and add the sun-dried tomatoes and lemon juice and cook for a more few minutes.

When the courgette is sufficiently cooked add the cherry tomatoes, basil and pine nuts.

Remove from the heat, mix with the pasta and serve with parmesan shavings.

For more examples of seasonal recipes visit Abby's healthy eating food blog [www.eattherightstuff.com](http://www.eattherightstuff.com)



We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at [foodforkent.co.uk](http://foodforkent.co.uk) or email us at [feedback@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:feedback@kosmedia.co.uk)

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Norfolk BB	£369	£389	£419	£459
Runnymede Court	£329	£359	£389	£399
Flight Only	£119	£129	£159	£189

### ACCOMMODATION PRICES

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Mayfair BB	£569	£519	£519	£559
Norfolk BB	£459	£409	£359	£449
Runnymede Court	£349	£349	-	-
Flight Only	£189	£139	£139	£199

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# All eyes on 2012 Games

■ BY MARIJKE COX

STUDENTS from St Edmund's Catholic School in Dover have taken part in the 20 in 12 Young Ambassadors Conference.

The event, at Canterbury Christchurch University, marked the beginning of a scheme launched in Kent to help young people from schools across the county get the most out of the London Olympics in 2012.

The programme aims to create a wide range of learning projects across the curriculum, involving sporting and cultural events.

St Edmund's School was invited to the conference alongside more than 70 schools specialising in sport, arts and languages.

It was chosen due to its specialist status in the performing arts.

Year-10 students Laura Potts, Becky Skelton and Jonathan Tinker attended the conference as young ambassadors of the school.

They took part in a selection of activities throughout the day and helped to create a

strategy to take back to the school to implement over the next three years.

They also met Paralympic gold medallist Danny Crates who won gold in the 800 metres sprint at the 2004 Games in Athens.

Danny lost his right arm in a car accident in Australia in 1994 and has since taken the sporting world by storm winning a selection of medals and breaking a world record.

After the event, Laura Potts said he was an inspiration to her and her schoolmates.

"The conference was really enjoyable. It was good to meet new people and to discuss how schools in Kent can move forward with the Olympic ideals," she said.

"Listening to Danny Crates' story about how he became a Paralympian was very moving and inspiring."

The day also saw the scheme awarded an Inspire Mark from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games, which commends non-commercial projects inspired by the Games.

The Kent 20 in 12 learning programme is one of only a few projects nationally to be acknowledged in this way.

For more information about the project, visit [www.kent20in12.org.uk](http://www.kent20in12.org.uk).

## BREAK TIME

### Book is the business



A GROUP of budding entrepreneurs from Sir Roger Manwood's School in Sandwich have come runners-up in the South East England final of the Young Enterprise scheme.

The competition, held in Horsham, saw seven companies from schools across the south east battle it out.

Harmedia, made up of pupils from the Dover district school, showed off their illustrated book linked to musical education for primary children.

Bob Goldfield, chief executive of Dover Harbour Board, which sponsors the Young Enterprise scheme, said: "Well done to Harmedia on this success."

### Schools get healthy

TWO primary schools in the Dover district have been presented with an award by Olympic rowing silver medallist Dr Alison Mowbray.

Wingham primary and Sholden primary were among 25 schools commendable for achieving healthy schools status.

### Creative showcase

SANDWICH Technology School is hosting a creative exhibition to showcase the work of its students.

The school's Create 09 event is being held on Thursday, July 9, and Friday, July 10, displaying work in art, design technology and media.

Pupils are the curators of the exhibition and their aim is to forge strong links with the community by inviting guests to take part in workshops.

A private viewing starts at 5pm on Thursday with performances at 5.30pm.

The exhibition is open to the public from 9.30am to 3pm on the Friday.

### Energy-saving day

THREE primary schools in the Dover district have helped reduce their energy use in a new countywide campaign.

For one day, 25 schools were challenged to see how much energy they could save through How Low Can You Go, launched by Kent County Council.

Northbourne School in Deal, St Joseph's Catholic Primary in Aylesham and Temple Ewell School in Dover all took part by turning off lights and not leaving electrical items on standby.

Sarah Hohler, prospective KCC cabinet member for children, families and education, said: "We can all do our bit to reduce energy use, which in turn saves money and the environment."



INSPIRATIONAL: Paralympian Danny Crates with ambassadors Laura Potts, Becky Skelton and Jonathan Tinker



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# 2 GREAT SUMMER EVENTS!!

## Quexpo Country Fair

A fun packed family weekend in the beautiful  
**Quex Park Estate, Birchington, Thanet CT7 0BH**

Birchington  
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- \* Steam Engines, tractors & military vehicles \* Over 200 classic & custom cars \* Miniature train rides \* Family dog show
- \* Birds of prey \* The Amazing Wall of Death motor cycle stunt show \* Inter Thanet Junior Football Tournament \* Baby Competition
- \* Family fun fair \* Live entertainment \* Demonstration dance groups \* Trade & craft stalls \* Refreshments & Real Ale Bar \* Helicopter Pleasure Flights (Sunday only)

tel: **01227 700894** or **07789 742828**

**Adults £7, OAP's £5, Accompanied children under 15 free!**

**Gates open 10am till late.**

**Both Events AA Signposted**

## Steam & County Fair

Dover  
 25th & 26th  
 July

**Admission: Adults £7, Seniors £5, Accompanied Children under 15 free!**

**Custom Cars & Tractors • Model Steam Train Rides**

**Crafts • Family Fun Fair • Motor Cycles • Steam Engines**

**& Working Displays, Live Music, Beer Marquee,  
 Arena Displays, Family Dog Show & Displays**

**Chilli Farm, A2, Goldred, Dover, CT15 5AH**

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# your competition

# WIN a holiday to Jersey

IMAGINE the joys of a hassle-free, value for money holiday.

No motorway queues on the way to the airport, stress free check-in and an uncrowded and comfortable departure lounge.

Imagine a relaxing flight to a beautiful island where you can enjoy stunning beaches and delicious local food, drink and hospitality.

This dream is now a reality thanks to Flybe's weekly Saturday flights to Jersey from Kent International Airport at Manston. And with tour operator Discover Jersey pledging Lowest Prices Guaranteed to the sunny Channel Island, holidays from KIA needn't break the bank.

We have a great holiday for two to Jersey to give away. Flying out on Saturday, August 29, our winners will spend seven nights at the fantastic three-star Merton Hotel in St Helier. As well as all the sights, the winners can enjoy the hotel's new £1 million Flowrider - a unique "skill and thrill" aquatic attraction.

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic holiday, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Jersey Holiday Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR.

The closing date is July 29, 2009.

**Kent International Airport**



**Question: What day does the Kent International flight operate to Jersey?**

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk) or call 01303 817073.

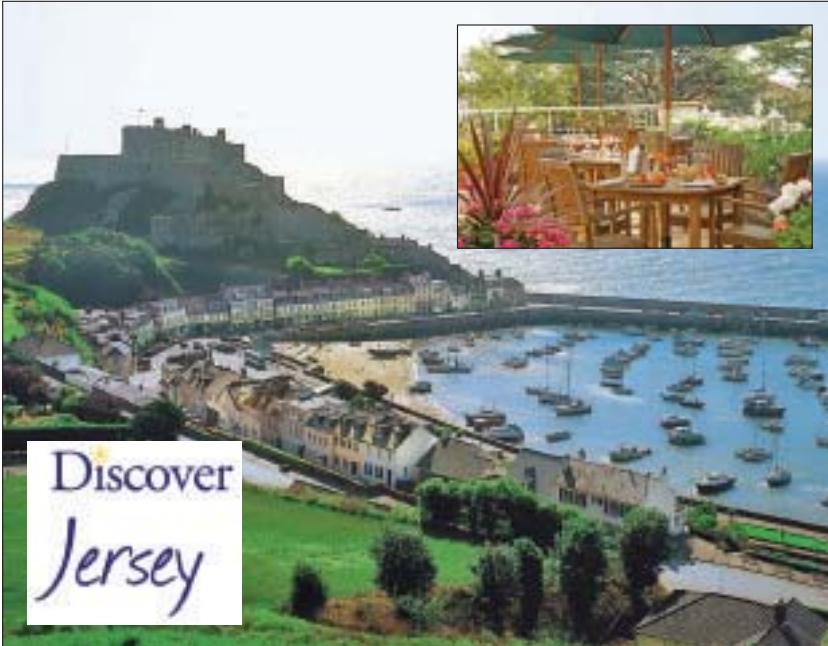
If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Only one entry per household. Correct entries will be drawn at random on July 30 and a winner selected. The winner will be notified by post. The prize is non-transferable and includes two free flights from Kent International Airport, departing August 29 for a week.

Seven nights accommodation at the Merton Hotel in a twin room on a bed and breakfast basis. Transfers to hotel are included.

The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 years and over. Promotion excludes employees and their immediate families of the promoters, any agencies of the promoters and anyone professionally connected with the promotion.

All personal data collected via this promotion will only be used for the purpose of marketing the holidays and travel offered by Discover Jersey & Guernsey.



**Discover Jersey**



## CHARITY GOLF DAY 2009

THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER

Hosted by Derek Underwood MBE

At: Chart Hills Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden, Kent, CT27 8JX

IN AID OF

**STARS FOUNDATION FOR CEREBRAL PALSY & MARTHA TRUST, DEAL**

The day will start with bacon rolls and coffee served from 10.30, followed by a shotgun start at 12 noon. After play there will be a 3 course dinner at 6pm, with well known comedian Adger Brown, followed by an auction.

The event will raise vital funds for the Martha Trust, a charity providing lifelong residential and respite care for people with profound and multiple disabilities in Kent and also The Stars Foundation for Cerebral Palsy a charity who raise funds to buy mobility, communication and educational aids.



If you would like further information or to register to play, please contact Serita Boxall 01304 610448 / [seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk](mailto:seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk) or visit [www.marthatrust.org.uk](http://www.marthatrust.org.uk)



Providing lifelong residential and respite care for people with profound disabilities.

Martha Trust, Home Meadow Lane, Hacking Lane, Deal, Kent, CT14 0PG  
Tel: 01304-615223 - Fax: 01304-615462  
Charity Number 1067885 [www.marthatrust.org.uk](http://www.marthatrust.org.uk)



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that button together, used  
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Kingsize (Code 2015) 225 x 220cm - £69.99 (RRP £179.99)  
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Duck Feather and Down Pillows (Code 2013) are only £24.99 a pair, saving £20 off the rrp, or Duck Down Pillows (Code 2307) at £49.99 saving £60 on rrp

To order this product (code 7575) visit [www.yourkenttv.co.uk/readeroffers/12845](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/readeroffers/12845)

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(Saving you both time and money  
in your search for romance.)

## WOMEN seeking men

### MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **1**

### IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU BABY

Caring and honest lady, 25, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for a sweet, caring and respectful non-smoking man, 25-35, for love, friendship and LTR. Box 879522 **1**

### NOT YOUR

### BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed blonde, 25, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **1**

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756 **1**

### GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 5ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 **1**

### IN THE COUNTRY

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 892265 **1**

### HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5ft4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **1**

### GOOD SOUND

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447959 **1**

### FEAST YOUR EYES ON...

Hello I'm Andrea, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, the cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **1**

### SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **1**

### STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 **1**

### HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker. Box 446093 **1**

### GALLOP AHEAD!

Mainstreame-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children, enjoys drives and horse riding, and WLTM honest, reliable man. Box 451311 **1**

### UNDERSTAND ME

Open, honest straight girl, 37, 5ft6", slim, pale and cute, own home, searching for sensible, strong, younger man, to help me relax and enjoy life. Box 451524 **1**

### WISHLIFULLY YOURS

Loving female, 37, 5ft2, brown hair, slim build, looking for honest, caring male with GSOH, for friendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 449915 **1**

### CALL ME

Happy but shy girl of 37, loves all the normal things in life, seeks a mature guy, hoping for something lasting and meaningful. Bexhill-on-Sea. Box 452424



### QUICK, EASY WAY TO VIEW PHOTOS!

Just enter the six-digit Box number, followed by a space, then PHOTO and send to 82250. Your phone must be WAP-enabled - £1.50 per photo

### ADDING PHOTOS!

Email: Send your photo and Member Number to: Louise@g8wave.co.uk. Mobile: Register your number with us & send by SMS to 07788 203 777. Enter P2P as subject. MMS - network charges apply.

### CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 **1**

### SCOTTISH LASS

Maggie here, I'm a Scottish girl, 39, 5ft2, been living down South for nearly 16 years, likes pubs, cinema, wine bars. Box 883010 **1**

### A SOUL MATE

Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066 **1**

### ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 **1**

### THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 40, 5ft7", dark eyes, GSOH, no lies, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 **1**

### JOINED AT THE HIP

Socially petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 **1**

### YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38 year old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curly physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901693 **1**

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(Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)



A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE  
Lovely, glossy Brunette, 39 yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

A HEART FULL OF LOVE  
Nice looking, genuine 41 yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTM a genuine good natured white male, GSOH, for fun filled friendship/relationship. Box 450890 **1**

A FAIRY TALE ENDING  
Easigoing blonde animal lover, 41, tactile, enjoy eating out, cinema and pubs, looking for a loyal, caring and funny man, 35-45. Box 451078 **1**

SEIZE THE DAY  
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **1**

MEND A BROKEN HEART  
Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 **1**

BLONDE AMBITION  
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **1**

A FAIRY TALE ENDING  
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **1**

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY  
Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gsoh, looking for a man with no issues and gsoh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 **1**

FANCY A DRINK?  
Hi I'm June, 47, bubbly, loving, looking for a trustworthy guy for a relationship. I enjoy walks, car-boots, travelling and sharing a bottle of red. Box 878294 **1**

FRIENDLY TYPE  
Seeking gent, 48-50ish. I'm a divorced woman in Ry, 47, working in nursing, and WLTM someone loving and faithful, likes meals out, theatre, arts, walks. Box 451819 **1**

BELLA ISABEL  
Lovely, fun and caring Brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTM a gent to socialise with. Box 878258 **1**

COSY TIMES TOGETHER  
Fun-loving female, 42, looking for someone who can make me laugh and enjoys country walks, films, travelling and a nice evening cuddled up. Box 881545 **1**

PROFESSIONAL LADY  
Fun bubbly sexy black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 451744 **1**

DO YOU KNOW  
UNTIL YOU CALL...  
Young-looking, hard-working 53 yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 **1**

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER,  
HOPEFULLY MORE  
Curvy and bubbly, outgoing friendly female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, driving and swimming. WLTM similar loving male. Box 443642 **1**

DO YOU HAVE THE  
BRAINS & THE LOOKS?  
Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 **1**

SMART LADY  
Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking intelligent, loyal guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **1**

DREAMS OF YOU  
Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, NFS male for long term relationship. Box 448566 **1**

SOMETHING NEW  
Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking intelligent, loyal guy with similar interests. Box 447662 **1**

HELP ME OPEN UP  
Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 878458 **1**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!  
Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking intelligent, loyal guy with similar interests. Box 453064 **1**

DO YOU KNOW  
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Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking intelligent, loyal guy with similar interests. Box 453064 **1**

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# yourblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living on the Channel coast



## Seagulls may be a rubbish nuisance but so are councils

SO people think wheelie bins will end the litter that blights the streets in Dover.

Well, they need to take a careful look at Shepway before moving that way.

After reading the story in last week's paper, I was amazed that people think it will be so easy to introduce wheelie bins and end the mess on our streets caused, it was claimed, by seagulls.

Seagulls are vermin and if you hand them a pile of kitchen scraps, thinly protected by black plastic, they'll find their way in.

What we actually need is recognition of the fact that people create rubbish and we, the council taxpayers, are all happy to pay for it to be taken away and disposed of.

I don't want to be forced into recycling – sort it for me. Nor do I want recycling used as an excuse for less frequent rubbish collections (don't mention Shepway).

Just accept we have to dispose of it.



FLASHBACK: Last week's report on Dover's streets

And in return for making my waste disappear regularly, I'm prepared to pay.

It's a very simple contract. Local democracy is good: upstanding citizens stand for election, they appoint competent local officers to carry out the wishes of the electorate, whether that be resurfacing the pavements, making sure the street lights work or, as in this case, dispose of our rubbish.

Where it starts to go awry is when the non-elected (and often extremely well-paid) officers get it wrong – they don't have to be re-elected.

And too many councillors are in awe of officers.

We don't need jobs created for five-a-day officers to make sure we get enough fruit, we simply need our basic requirements met.

Dover's streets frequently look terrible when the rubbish is due to be collected.

Part of the bin men's job should be to clean up the streets, too. As I've said, I'm prepared to pay for that. And if wheelie bins are the answer, get on with it and issue them. I suspect they may not be the complete answer.

The people of Swale have issues with streets cluttered by wheelie bins. And in Shepway, if you have more rubbish than your bin can take, they won't collect it. Ridiculous.

So I fear any move in that direction in Dover will merely encourage more silly rules about what rubbish we can actually throw away and how much.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

### GET IN TOUCH...

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### LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor,

**Dave Mairs**, on **01303 817022**, or email him on

the details above. If you want to be the next

Dover blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town,

log on to [www.yourdover.co.uk](http://www.yourdover.co.uk).

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# yourletters

## TALK TIME

### SARAH HOHLER

The only female cabinet member on Kent County Council talks about her role and the issues raised in her department



Are you pleased with Paul Carter's decision to make you a Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education and what do you bring to the role? I was delighted when he asked me to join his Cabinet. I hope I bring experience, calmness and clear and fresh thinking to the role.

**What issues do you feel most passionately about?**  
As far as my post is concerned, I feel strongly that every child is an important individual with a right to as good an education and chance in life as we can help provide.

I think vocational training, opportunities for achieving sporting excellence and academic achievements are all important. All children are different and we need to appreciate that. It is also important that young people are encouraged and empowered to lead fulfilling lives in their chosen field.

**How do you hope to address those issues?**  
In my Cabinet role I hope to champion our young people and to support the excellent teachers who educate them and also to involve parents as fully as possible in the development of their children's potential.

**How do you feel about being the only woman in the cabinet?**  
I am quite comfortable about being the only woman, at present, on the Cabinet, as indeed I was from 1997 to 2004. I am pleased that we have more women on the county council following the election.

## YOUR LETTERS

### Remember Tory actions at election

I am writing to you in disgust. No sooner have the Tories been elected at County Hall than they decide to give themselves a whopping eight per cent pay rise.

It is just a shame they could not be up front with the electorate before or during the election. I just ask the people to remember this, when the general election comes around – the Tories will say anything to get elected. Then they will tell us: "Oh sorry we can't do this because..."

**Cllr Bryan Henderson (Labour)**  
Deal Town Council

### Can you help me trace my relatives?

I am researching my family tree and have found that the Evans family I am related to came from Dover.

My mother was brought up as a single child and until recently we did not know that her grandmother had five or six siblings all born in Dover.

I would like to know if anyone locally either remembers them or can put me in touch with existing members.

My great grandmother was part of the Evans family that lived at 7 Church Court Cottages, Dee Stone Lane, Dover. She is mentioned on the 1881 census and family members at that time are: Henry Evans (father) aged 36, blacksmith;

Sarah Evans (mother) aged 29, wife; Edith Evans (daughter) aged six (my great grandmother); Alice Evans (daughter) aged two; William Evans (son) aged four.

In the 1891 census Edith is not mentioned and I have found that

**LETTERS:** Please write to: Editor Dave Mairs, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

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And remember, the site is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across the district and surrounding villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On our website you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

Sarah Evans (mother) aged 29, wife; Edith Evans (daughter) aged six (my great grandmother); Alice Evans (daughter) aged two; William Evans (son) aged four. In the 1891 census Edith is not mentioned and I have found that

she went into service for a family named Phillips and is on the 1901 census as a house servant. In the meantime more siblings are born including: Frederick, born 1882, Bertie, 1885, Daisy, 1888 and Annie, 1891.

In the 1911 census William is married, aged 35, and a cook, he has one daughter F M Evans aged four, address 19 Elm Road, Tulse Hill, SW London.

Frederick is married to Mildred, both aged 27, and living at 9 St Johns Road, Gillingham.

My great grandmother's mother is still living in Dover in 1911 at 4 Church Place, Dover, as a widow taking in lodgers.

Annie Evans is a domestic servant working for a family whose address was Rotherwood, Linden Gardens, Leatherhead, and Albert Evans is a drummer in 1BN N Stafford Regiment.

Alice Evans in 1911 has married Walter James Ash and they are living at 8 Church Court, Dover, and have two children Winifred May, aged nine, and William Henry, aged five.

I am interested in finding anyone connected to the family or who has family history information as my mother is the granddaughter of Edith and until last year thought she had no family.

Janet Clegg  
[janet@achildwithin.uk.com](mailto:janet@achildwithin.uk.com)

## It was good to welcome you all in

Through these pages I would like to thank the Mayor, town and district councillors, and most of all, the people of Dover and surrounding areas for their support of our recent Open Day at the Masonic Hall in Snargate Street.

The Open Day was a very significant landmark. It marked the first time in 300 years that the general public had been



## FERRET THROUGH YOUR OPTIONS Course Information Evening

Wednesday 15th July 4pm-7pm at our Canterbury Site

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invited into Dover's Masonic Lodge rooms. For the day, the main Lodge Room was laid out as though an initiation ceremony was about to take place. Local Freemasons were on hand, dressed in full Masonic regalia, to answer everyone's questions openly.

Aimed at demystifying our fraternity, the day demonstrated that, despite mistaken belief, Freemasonry is not a secret society at all, being happy to open its doors to one and all. Indeed, for further information, see [www.eastkentfreemasons.org](http://www.eastkentfreemasons.org).

For many years Dover's Free-masons have been regular supporters of so good causes. While these are too numerous to list, they include the White Cliffs Talking Newspaper and Crabble Corn Mill. In addition, local Lodges support a number of Kent-based charities, which include various hospices and the Kent Air Ambulance.

It has been particularly gratifying to witness the warmth and sincerity with which so many people acknowledged the support Freemasonry gives to our community. Thank you to everyone who took the time to join us.

**Brian Powell**  
Assistant Provincial Grand Master of East Kent Freemasons

## Give other train stations a trial too

Following on from all the hype



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)

about the high speed train and how it will cut journey times from many places in the county, why is it only being tested from Ashford? Surely it would be fair for the services, which are being run prior to the launch, to set off from various stations.

As well as ensuring the track is up to standard this will also help passengers familiarise themselves with the new trains.

**Ian Hagen**  
by email

## Jacko's mourners should just Beat It

Is it just me, or has everyone gone totally over the top about Michael Jackson?

OK, he made a few good albums, and the songs were alright and the videos clever.

But he certainly was no saint and that is even before you start looking into the allegations over his private life.

It seems as soon as anyone dies now a sort of Princess Di factor comes into play.

Everyone uses it as an occasion for relentless outpourings of grief.

It certainly is tragic for his family and I am sure his fans will miss the opportunity to watch his shows and buy his music, if any new releases were forthcoming.

But as a general cause for upset and tears – no, I don't think so.

**James Heath**  
by email

## Tempers heat up if you're stuck at work

It's noticeable how people's attitudes changes during hot weather.

When people are not working, everything is more relaxed, drinkers spill out on to pavements, and parks and beaches are packed.

Hot weather is great if you are free to enjoy it. But if you are shut away indoors it is just annoying.

**Jessica Bradshaw**  
by email

## Sporting priorities are all wrong on TV

It seems to have been ages coming but the Ashes will soon be here.

After weeks of having to put up with the antics of the grunting women of Wimbledon there is real sport about to come to everyone's attention. But it won't, will it?

While the BBC spends millions on coverage of Wimbledon and Formula 1, only those with Sky will be able to see one of the top sporting rivalries in the world.

It is not fair that we have to suffer loads of boring sports and not get to see a minute of one that has been part of this nation's history for more than a century.

The BBC has not got its priorities anywhere near right.

**Anthony Lockwood**  
by email

# The Aspinall Foundation 2009 totally wild challenge



## 10k run & 10k/30k bike ride fundraising events

**Saturday 5 September 2009**

Join us for our totally wild challenge to help raise funds for The Aspinall Foundation's animal conservation projects in Kent and overseas.

- 10k bike ride – ideal for families!
- Fully-marked out with regular drink stations.
- Every finisher gets a medal.
- For a totally tough challenge, you could run AND cycle!
- Event starts and finishes inside Port Lympne Wild Animal Park. Stay and enjoy the park with family and friends for the rest of the day.
- As a charity, we rely solely on public donations so would ask you to raise as much sponsorship as possible.

To enter online for the run:  
[www.runnersworld.co.uk/wildrun](http://www.runnersworld.co.uk/wildrun)  
and for the bike ride:  
[www.runnersworld.co.uk/wildbike](http://www.runnersworld.co.uk/wildbike)

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Jeanne on 01323 492299 or  
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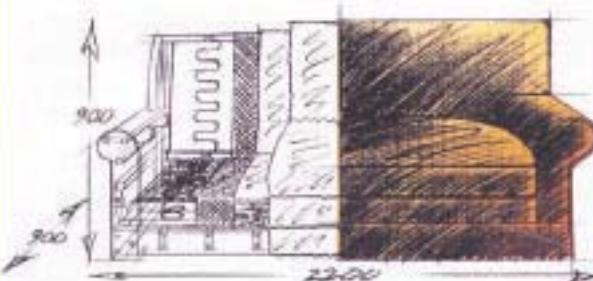


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# Get set to rock farm

Hip-hop's 'head honcho' Roots Manuva joins Edwyn Collins on star-studded line-up at award-winning festival

## LOUNGE ON THE FARM

July 10-12  
Merton Farm, near Canterbury



FROM hip hop to indie, Lounge on the Farm presents a diverse range of music treats this year.

Boasting headline acts such as Edwyn Collins and The Horrors, the three-day festival offers new and established acts from a variety of genres.

The Saturday night headliner has been announced as seminal UK performer Roots Manuva.

Following the example of Glastonbury boss Michael Eavis, who added US superstar Jay-Z to the bill last year, LOTF organiser Matt Gough has decided to bring the "head honcho of UK hip hop" to Kent.

The music starts on Friday when Hobo Jones and The JD, A Hawk & A Hacksaw, Toddla T, Los Salvadores, The King Blues and Gong are just some of the great acts taking to the stage before headline act The Horrors brings the day to a close.

Saturday's entertainment includes performances by Krafty Kuts, The Temper Trap, Portico Quartet and The Aliens, alongside nearly 30 other acts.

Sunday's final line-up includes Underground Heroes, Krissy & The Jackdaws, the James Taylor Quartet, Son of Dave, Dan Le Sac v Pip, Mr Scruff, Billy Childish & The MBE and a finale from Edwyn Collins.

Upcoming Kent bands will have the chance to perform after being voted into the line-up by fans and the lucky winners include Elephants, Billy Wears Dresses, The Sketch, Ghost In Mirrors, Twilight Green and The Dukes.

The festival has received much acclaim for its support of local food and drink producers, so there will be plenty of gastronomic delights.

Lounge on the Farm's accolades include The Telegraph's recommendations for top family festivals, while last year's event was among the Times' Top 10 Boutique Festivals, the Observer's Top 20 Festivals You've Never Heard Of and the Guardian's



**STAR TURNS:** Saturday headliner Roots Manuva, and right, Edwyn Collins, who brings the festival to a close on Sunday

Best Family Festivals. Organisers also earned a Greener Festival Award for their commitment to environmentally-friendly working practices.

Despite the recession, early bird tickets sold out in record time this year. Full weekend tickets cost £85 for adults, £45 for children and £180 for families of two adults and two children. Children aged five and under are admitted for free.

For full festival listings and to book tickets, visit the website at [www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk](http://www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk).



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**JANE CONNOLLY**Email [jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk)**LeisureTV** SPONSORED BY [seafrance.com](http://seafrance.com)**THE PIED PIPER**Sunday, July 12  
Connaught Park, Dover

ENTER the mysterious world of Hamelin as Dover Youth Theatre present The Pied Piper. By arrangement with Samuel French Ltd, the company will perform the National Theatre version of this classic tale. The free performance will begin at 3pm and the audience should bring a cushion or chair.

The script was written by Adrian Mitchell and Alan Cohen, with music by Dominic Muldowney. Faced with a rat infestation, the

residents of Hamelin despair at ever ridding themselves of the rodents. They are saved by the arrival of the Pied Piper, an enigmatic figure who promises to lure the rats away from the town with his magic pipe and drown them in the river.

But when the townsfolk renege on the deal and refuse to pay the Piper for his work, they bring upon themselves a terrible act of revenge.

The production is sponsored by Dover Marquee Company, The Silly Committee, Bradleys Solicitors, The London Fancy Box Company, Dover District Council and Pharos Insurance Brokers.

**DEAL FESTIVAL**Until Sunday, July 19  
Various venues

MORE diverse entertainment is on offer as the Deal Festival enters its second week.

Many concerts have already sold out, including Shakespeare's Sonnets and Soliloquies, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain and a concert by John Williams and John Etheridge, but there is plenty more for fans of music, history and the arts to enjoy in the second week of the programme.

Tonight (Wednesday) brass and percussion group Heavy Metal will be perform at the Blazing Donkey in Ham, while the Chuckerbutty Ocarina Quartet will be providing family entertainment at St George's Church in Deal tomorrow. Other highlights include a performance by virtuoso violin duo Simon Hewitt-Jones and David Worswick, the Band of the Royal Marines, flamenco quartet Carambita and Deal Pier Discs, in which Paul Edlin interviews Lady Fitzwalter at Deal Castle.

From the Lunar Sax Quartet to Geoffrey Powers' Afternoon of Shakespeare, there is something to interest most tastes. Full festival listings can be found on the website at [www.dealfestival.co.uk](http://www.dealfestival.co.uk). To book tickets or for more information, call 01304 381134.

**QUEXPO**Saturday and Sunday, July, 11-12  
Quex Park, Birchington

FOLLOWING its triumphant return last year, Quexpo is taking place this weekend.

After an absence of 22 years, the family day out was revived in 2008. This year the Wall of Death will be providing an adrenalin rush, while soccer fans can get their kicks during the Inter Thanet Club Football Tournament.

There will be more action from a street dance group, cheer leaders, gymnasts, a fam-

ily dog show and impressive birds of prey from the Many Hoots Owl Sanctuary.

Fans of vintage vehicles will admire classic cars, steam engines, military vehicles, a World War Two replica plane and more.

Escape the heat in the real ale tent, with entertainment from This Little Girl, and browse the stalls selling trade items, crafts and local produce.

The event runs from 10am to 6pm both days and parking is available. Tickets cost £7 for adults, £5 for senior citizens, free for children. For details, call 01227 700894 or 07789 742828 or visit [www.ssleisureevents.co.uk](http://www.ssleisureevents.co.uk).

**LOUD & LIVE****Bandstand celebration  
a concert of two halves**

A SPECIAL 20th anniversary concert is being held at Deal Memorial Bandstand.

The Royal Marine Concert will begin at 2pm on Sunday, with one band performing the first half. This will be followed by a march around Deal before returning to the bandstand to join another band for the rest of the concert.

The event includes a memorial service. Details at [www.dealbandstand.org](http://www.dealbandstand.org).

**Artists show off work  
at open studio days**

ARTISTS are opening their studios to visitors as part of the Deal Festival.

Potter Marilyn Williams, painter Gerry Costa and textile artist Rosemary Stow are some of the local artists taking part in the SEAS Open Studios scheme this weekend and next weekend.

For more information go to [www.seasopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.seasopenstudios.co.uk) or call Marilyn or David on 01304 363118.

**Indie cover band are  
not the usual Suspects**

GET ready for a great evening of live music in the company of The Suspects.

The four-piece covers band plays songs in the indie/alternative/rock genres. To find out more about the band visit the website [www.thesuspects.co.uk](http://www.thesuspects.co.uk).

The Suspects will be playing at The Archer in Sandwich Road, Whitfield, on Saturday (July 11). For more details about the venue call 01304 825890.

**Turmoil takes over as  
band rock out at pub**

ROCK out to hits by a diverse range of acts when Turmoil play live in Dover

The local four-piece plays songs by bands such as The Automatic and Kaiser Chiefs, Rolling Stones and Pearl Jam. Hear them at [www.myspace.com/weareturmoil](http://www.myspace.com/weareturmoil), and catch them band at Park Inn in Park Place on Saturday. For details of the venue call the pub on 01304 203300.

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# yourmusic

# High Rocks Festival rejig gives Power to the people

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

AS the old adage goes, good things come to those who wait.

And so it proves to be for British Sea Power fans, with the Mercury Music Prize-nominated indie stars set to headline the re-arranged High Rocks music festival in Tunbridge Wells next month.

The Brighton-based outfit were originally booked to perform at the Sonic Heights' 'A Day With British Sea Power' one-dayer earlier this summer but pulled out citing recording commitments.

But the Sonic Heights team were able to pull some strings, moving the whole music marathon to Sunday August 2.

The move sees existing ticketholders avoid disappointment and increases the likelihood of BSP playing brand new, never-heard-before material.

Sonic Heights' Chris Pritchard said he thought their debut event was shaping up well.

He said: "British Sea Power in a converted barn in Tunbridge Wells. It does not get much better than that."

"Sonic Heights are thrilled to be putting on this show, especially it being our first."

"It was a shame the event has had to be moved. The fact that we have to be patient for longer is the biggest frustration, but with possible issues occurring during the recording session, we didn't want this show being the reason for a delay of hearing the band's new material."

Scores of bands are being lined up on the undercard, with Tom Williams & The Boat, The Help Movement, Lights Go Blue, Maker



and Krissy & The Jackdaws already agreeing to play.

More bands and DJs are set to be unveiled nearer the time.

The High Rocks festival is open to over-16s only. Music runs from 2pm to midnight. Tickets cost £16.

For more information, you can visit [www.wegottickets.com/event/50660](http://www.wegottickets.com/event/50660)

## LINE-UP

**A Day With...**  
**British Sea Power**  
**Tom Williams & The Boat**  
**The Help Movement**  
**Lights Go Blue**  
**Maker**  
**Krissy & The Jackdaws**



**LINE-UP:** Brighton's British Sea Power (top) will be joined at High Rocks by Tom Williams & The Boat (above)

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**HAIR-RAISING:** Josh Weller plays She Shot Me at The Farmhouse, Canterbury



**RUN WITH IT:** Luke Jackson performs a cover of Snow Patrol hit Run



## KENT UNSIGNED GIGS

- 1 Lost in Colour - 17/7 Dover Town Hall
- 2 My Last Mistake - 22/7 The Bargate, Gillingham
- 3 Venxia - 2/8 The Loft, Maidstone
- 4 Salvador Charlie - 14/8 Cramptons, Broadstairs
- 5 Kayley Weller - 30/8 The Three Horseshoes, Mongeham

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**IN STORE****Topshop lets you play around with fashion**

GET playful this summer with a selection of playsuits from Topshop.

Girls can find a selection of funky styles to keep them looking cool in the sunshine. The shop is offering a range of different designs, including floral print (£50), vintage rose (£25), check frill (£38) or stripe bandeau (£25).

Or for those wanting to cover up a bit, long-legged jumpsuits can also be found in a variety of styles. To see the full collection visit [www.topshop.com](http://www.topshop.com).

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# Cameron steps up to the role of desperate mum

**■ BY KATE WHITING**

AFTER years of playing the ditzy blonde known for having one of the broadest smiles in Hollywood, Cameron Diaz is moving on.

Following roles in comedies such as Charlie's Angels and What Happens In Vegas, she admits that it was new territory acting in the big-screen adaptation of Jodi Picoult's heart-rending novel My Sister's Keeper.

Reflecting on her portrayal of mother Sara Fitzgerald, whose child is dying from leukaemia, she explains that she had to grow into the role.

"There was a certain level of maturity that had to come with playing this role, that I think I had to step up to, which I was happy and thankful for," she says, picking her words carefully.

In the film, Fitzgerald chooses to have a second child by IVF as a blood and marrow donor for her first daughter Kate.

The movie co-stars 13-year-old Abigail Breslin, best known for her Oscar-nominated turn in 2007's Little Miss Sunshine, as the youngest daughter Anna, who sues her parents for the medical rights to her own body, when she's expected to donate a kidney to her sister Kate (Sofia Vassilieva).

Cameron, 36, admits it was a "touchy" role to take on, but she felt ready for it: "It was a nice stepping stone in the experience of life."

Casting Cameron as a mother of three teenage kids is an unusual choice, but director Nick Cassevetes, who won acclaim for 2004's The Notebook, thought otherwise.

He picked her precisely because she had done so little drama, saying: "I really didn't want to cast an actress who had done some-


**BIG SMILE:** Cameron Diaz is trying something new

thing similar for this film." And Cameron has not let him down. She speaks so passionately about Sara, it's easy to see she put a lot of herself into the film.

"I feel like Sara is a warrior," she gushes.

"She doesn't have a moment not to be vigilant. She can't be apathetic one second of the day."

"She has a child who's dying and she has

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been through a decade of this vigilance. So, she's just sort of pushing through this."

To research the role, Cameron met mothers with sick children who were going through the same experience as Sara.

"No matter what the circumstances were – everybody had a different financial position or some were married and some were divorced – they all said that there's just not a moment that you aren't focused on keeping your child alive," she says.

"What's so wonderful with this film is that you see how it's not one person's story - it's not just a mother losing a daughter, it's a sister losing a sister or a brother losing a sister, a family losing their family together, all of them suffering separately as well as together."

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Smaller companies can breathe a sigh of relief with the Prompt Payment Code which is getting

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We look at the problems facing millions of private-sector workers in the years to come by highlighting the all-important pension issues

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With jobless figures still rising, check out these top tips to wow your next employer and nail your next career move

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With savings accounts earning so little, you will be surprised by what you can earn by waving your wad around in the car trade

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Applications have boomed for the £2,000 Government car scrapping scheme, prompting fears the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March

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Downsizing to a more fuel and tax efficient car should be just part of your masterplan to cut the motoring budget

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# Summer savings for our readers

COMPANIES' traditionally fight their battles against rival firms in the same sector.

But in the current economic situation, firms with an eye on the future are equally engaged with a fight against the conditions in the marketplace.

In this latest edition of Money Matters we offer some advice from the experts on how firms can keep themselves fighting fit by taking steps to avoid becoming the victims of fraudsters – from inside and outside the organisation.

There are also some top tips for individuals planning their pensions, and individuals looking for

a safe place for their savings. Gold is making a comeback, and you may soon even be able to buy it from a vending machine.

We also feature some of the many money-saving offers available at [vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://vouchersforkent.co.uk). There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; retail trades and services; and

also from members of the Canterbury Independent Traders.

It really couldn't be more easy to do. Just flick through the online books, print out the offers you want, and then start saving money.

Summer puts us all in a good mood, and we hope these offers will help you to make the most of the sunny months.

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# Is there fraud in your business?



**BUSINESS** need to be aware of fraud at all levels.

The exposés on MPs' expenses should serve as a warning to business managers that fraudulent activity could be happening much closer to home than they might realise.

With the continuing uncertain economic outlook it is vital the risks are actively managed.

When dealing with the likely sources of fraud it is more often people inside the business that are the culprits, and managers should pay as much attention to the internal risks as the external ones.

There are some simple issues that can be addressed which may prevent fraud from occurring. Establishing correct internal checks and balances, which are both sensible and in proportion with the associated risks, will go some way to ensuring the most vulnerable areas are covered.

In addition to assessing the risk factors, there are other important tips that can help a business detect and prevent fraud:

- Know your people – both staff and contractors, and if something doesn't quite add up, ask more questions.

By **ANDREW JONES**

- Training – ensure that once the risks have been identified, staff are trained to spot and prevent attempted fraud.

- Unusual behaviour or transactions – long hours, no holidays and living beyond their means may be signs of fraudulent behaviour. Likewise large amounts of petty cash transactions or unusual expenses could be evidence.

However, just because none of these signs is evident does not mean fraud is not present.

If a business believes it might have become the victim of fraud, the evidence must be secured and there should be a well-rehearsed plan in place to allow all options to be investigated.

Taking early action and speaking to experts in the fraud arena can often make a big difference in fully understanding what has happened.

By successfully identifying and dealing with the fraudsters, recovering what has been lost and learning lessons to reduce the chances of it happening again will all help.

Tilly has offices in Bromley and Tunbridge Wells.

Wells. Its Southern region forensic services director Bill White said: "Fraud is becoming increasingly common, particularly in today's uncertain economic conditions.

"Both businesses, and the people who work in them, are under increasing pressure to perform and therefore the temptation to try and gain funds dishonestly may only be a step away.

"At Baker Tilly we have a team of experienced forensic experts who can advise on all aspects of corporate fraud.

"We often find that businesses don't always know where to look for help or who to speak to when fraud has been uncovered, but it is important to take early advice."

**AWARE:** When dealing with the likely sources of fraud it is more often people inside the business that are the culprits

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Picture: JULIE SERKIN



SURVIVOR'S MESSAGE: IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, Jonathan Gwyer

# Refusing to be bowed or beaten

By **TONY PATEY**

WHITSTABLE businessman Jonathan Gwyer is not allowing the current economic crisis to get him down.

Mr Gwyer, 37, wears a badge that states: 'I refuse to participate in a recession.' And he wants more people to do the same.

He said: "It seems some people have written off the year. We are still proactive and positive."

As an IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, the father-of-four is also chapter director of the local BNI, a business networking body.

Mr Gwyer admits there have been some hairy moments through the financial problems of the past year "like the moment Iceland's Icesave bank went into receivership."

"That was just before Christmas, and all of our capital was in that bank. We were very relieved when the Government rescued depositors."

At a time now when many large and small businesses are struggling, HDG Networks is confident that it can still be business as usual.

"I am finding that as a smaller business with lower overheads, we are getting work with companies that are trying to grow while keeping costs down."

"In a recent job, I was called in and the company in question had been quoted more than £4,000 for an expansion of their IT system."

"We were able to give them a more bespoke solution, and it wasn't necessary for them to spend anywhere near so much money. They were delighted."

"In a crisis such as this, businesses must adapt and we will do what it takes."

"We're doing everything from installing wireless and broadband in homes or offices, to building websites, teaching people how to run their own website or breathing new life into old PCs, in fact pretty much any kind of IT support."

Mr Gwyer set up HDG Networks in 2007, after 16 years at the drugs giant Pfizer in Sandwich.

He said: "I knew I could offer small businesses the kind of support that big business demands but within their own budgets."

"My wife, Helen, supported me all the way with my decision, I think she wondered what took me so long."

To find out how you can get your own badge, contact Mr Gwyer at [www.hdgnet.com](http://www.hdgnet.com).



# Business of identity theft

ONE of our clients had its registered office changed without the company's knowledge.

This was done by someone simply printing off a filed form with the company secretary's name on and then tracing the signature onto form 287, enabling the change of registered office. The address remained changed for a period of some 14 days before the fraud was discovered by the company's auditors on a routine visit and corrective action taken.

#### The threat

Companies House estimates that there are between 50-100 cases of corporate identity fraud every month. While this is against a backdrop of tens of thousands of documents received each month, the cost incurred by British business as a result of corporate identity fraud has been estimated at more than £50 million each year.

Obtaining or changing a company's identity is surprisingly straightforward.

For example, a fraudster may file a change of registered office notice or change of directors' details at Companies House by signing one simple form. No great legal knowledge is required and copies of a serving company officer's signature are readily available from Companies House.

They accept paper documentation in 'good faith' and as such, will register documentation received without sending any further notification to a company that its details have been changed.

It is perfectly possible therefore, for a fraudster to appoint him or herself as a director of a target company, or alternatively change the target company's registered office address to one which the fraudster has access.

If you think identity theft only applies to individuals, then think again. **David Hallett**, a solicitor in the commercial team at Kent law firm Buss Murton, analyses corporate identity theft in the county

Once the registered office address has been successfully changed, all Companies House notices will be sent there.

Even worse, a customer or supplier may only send money or goods to the new registered office address as a matter of policy rather than sending those goods or money to the company's established trading address.

The fraudster only needs to be successful once at intercepting money or goods before targeting another company. Inevitably, by the time the company or authorities learn of the fraudulent activity, the fraudster will have moved and the postal address will be vacant.

#### The solution

However, there are procedures that can be put in place that will help to dramatically reduce the threat of identity fraud. These include:

1. Online filing. Every UK company is able to register for an authentication code (much like a pin number) with Companies House. Upon registration for this code a company is then able to submit certain documents (such as the annual return, 288a (appointment of a director) and 287 (change of registered office address) online. The use of online filing substantially reduces the risk of such documents going astray in the postal system.

2. PROOF scheme. Once a company has obtained an authentication code from Companies House, the company can then sign

up to the Protected Online Filing Service (known as PROOF). Once signed up (using form PR1), Companies House will then not accept paper copies of the forms listed under point 1 above. These documents will only be accepted electronically (submitted using the authentication code). Therefore, provided the authentication code is kept safe and treated as if it were a bank account pin number, then the chances of a fraudster being able to change a company's identity are dramatically reduced.

3. Monitor. Companies or individuals can register so that they are automatically notified of all changes that occur to a company's details held at Companies House. The cost of this service can be as little as 50p per year. Once signed up to a monitoring service, the nominated individual will receive an automatic update as soon as Companies House accepts and files a document in relation to a chosen company.

In addition to this, company information should always be stored securely and any information that is to be destroyed should be done so securely (as you would when destroying personal information such as your bank statements).

• **David Hallett is a solicitor in Buss Murton LLP's company and commercial department in Tunbridge Wells. He can be contacted at the firm's Tunbridge Wells office on 01892 502306.**

## Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering a Peers Hardy leather handbag and free umbrella for £19.99
- Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off all dining suite orders over £2,000
- Wells Clinic, beauty treatment shop in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening, lines and wrinkle reduction treatment (b/tox)
- Canterbury Mazda Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free bowl of strawberries and cream when you buy a two course meal in the Victory Pub
- JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half-price duvet and pillows with every bed purchased
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care Petrol or Diesel £109
- Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £14 off registered retail price for class 4 MOTs and £7.70 off class 7 MOTs
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- Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering a free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used
- KOS is offering an all-seasons duck duvet, two duvets that button together from only £39.99. Save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# A timely code for

## Big businesses make a pledge to increase the speed of payments to smaller companies

CREDIT management experts have welcomed a pledge from big businesses to pay invoices from supplies on time.

The Institute of Credit Management (ICM) said it hoped the companies would live up to their word to pay on time and sign the Prompt Payment Code.

Some 11 new high-profile companies including Barclays, Sony UK, Sky and B&Q have committed to sign the code, as part of a campaign designed to help increase the speed of payments to smaller companies.

The code, developed with the ICM and supported by major business organisations, aims to establish a clear and consistent policy, and a climate of greater certainty in the payment of business-to-business invoices.

It is being hosted by the ICM at [www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk](http://www.promptpaymentcode.org.uk) and includes a facility for suppliers to raise concerns about late payers.

The code focuses on three main areas: a commitment to pay suppliers on time; to give clear guidance to suppliers; and to encourage good practice.

The Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform group and the ICM have also issued a leaflet highlighting the benefits of paying on time and why it is important to become a

■ BY TONY PATEY

signatory to the Prompt Payment Code.

Business minister Shriti Vadhera said: "Late payment can be the final straw for small business in the current climate."

"So the commitment by major companies heading up supply chains to pay on time is a win for all businesses."

Lovetts, one of the UK's leading debt recovery law firms has revealed that companies are 'going legal' on unpaid invoices a whopping 39 days sooner than a year ago.

The findings suggest that in the current economic downturn, businesses are only too mindful of the impact of late payments on cash flow and are acting quickly to reduce their exposure to bad debt.

### Survival

Lovetts analysed the Letters Before Action (LBAs) issued on behalf of its customers in February 2009 against the same month in 2008, which revealed a 39-day acceleration in clients 'going legal'. LBAs are used to secure payment, or to obtain a response from a customer before the commencement of a claim.

Chairman and managing director of Lovetts,

Charles Wilson, said: "With recent news that the number of British businesses that fail is set to rise to 36,000 in 2009, the equivalent of one in every 56 companies, businesses are only too acutely aware of the potential for bad debt and the devastating impact this can have on their own survival."

"With all businesses trying to manage cash flow when there is little credit available, it's a spiral of suppliers chasing customers for money they are reluctant to release."

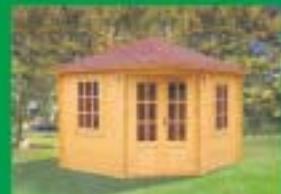
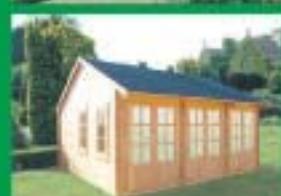
"The previous attitude towards frequent late payers may have been accepting and forgiving, but the current tough climate is pushing businesses to press for payment on time in order to protect themselves."

"Our figures certainly suggest that British businesses are determined not to be victims of bad debt and will employ all the tactics available to get paid, including pursuing debt through the courts."

"In particular it is encouraging to see that a growing number of companies are exercising their right to charge for compensation and interest on late payments."

"In this economic climate businesses need to ensure they are tackling late payment and bad debt head on. For small businesses in particular, it can be a matter of survival or failure."

To keep the cash flowing Lovetts suggests businesses consider the following actions:



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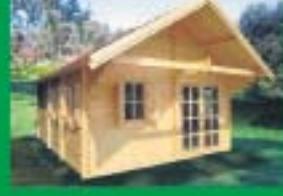
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# late payers



**SURVIVAL:** Paying on time can be vital to help small companies survive the recession

- Bring your collection cycle forward, the sooner you get on top of potential debt problems, the better
- Seek compensation and interest through late payment legislation earlier and apply it on an invoice-by-invoice basis
- If you have interest provisions in your terms, consider whether they are sufficiently robust. Businesses with a rate linked to bank base rates are vulnerable here. Scrap the provision and rely on the late payment legislation which gives eight per cent interest

over base rate, but don't forget to circulate the new terms to your customers.

- Instruct debt recovery lawyers early
- Avoid throwing good money after bad by conducting a credit-check. If the debtor is clearly struggling, negotiate realistic instalment payments or consider a discount for immediate payment.
- If the decision is to issue a claim, be resolute in pursuing it. If the debtor asks for invoices, supply copies and any information they want quickly.

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- KOS is offering ultra-slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, a saving £20 on the RRP
- EC Bates motorbikes shop in Dartford is offering zero per cent finance on selected Yamaha and Suzuki models
- KOS is offering a leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton for only £49.99 inc p&p, saving £40 off RRP
- The Orchard Restaurant in Maidstone is offering Meal Deals Monday-Saturday 7.30pm-9pm. Select a main meal and alcoholic or soft drink for £4.95
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a complimentary Strawberry Shortcake stack when you buy two courses in the Verve Grill
- KOS is offering Egyptian cotton 400-count percale bed linen. Save 40 per cent off RRP
- KOS is offering Solar Powered Bird Bath, save £30. Offer price £119.99 RRP £149.99
- Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering £2 off all scrubs

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By JEREMY GATES

WHEN two of Britain's leading firms announced big cutbacks to company pension schemes last month, they highlighted once again the problems facing millions of private-sector workers when they stop work.

BP closes its final salary pension scheme to new entrants from April, 2010, while Barclays Bank is taking 18,000 staff out of its final-salary scheme and into an inferior defined contributions (DC) scheme, albeit with some protection against swings in the stock market.

Barclays currently pays £350 million a year into its pension fund.

Although both schemes will be superior to the average company DC scheme, the events suggest final-salary schemes could soon vanish altogether in the private sector.

Britain's biggest FTSE 100 companies, facing total pension fund deficits of nearly £30 billion, have little option if they are to survive the recession.

Morrisons last month switched 4,500 workers from a final-salary pension scheme into one based on average salary, while BT's share price continues to suffer from fears about its huge pension fund deficit.

Nearly three-quarters of a million British workers retire in 2009 and with the value of pensions assets held around the world slashed by more than £3bn since 2007, many will have trouble making ends meet.

A survey of people aged 60-plus by Intune, the financial services provider owned by Age Concern and Help The Aged, says 55 per cent of private pension holders are disappointed with the income they expect to get.

If they could do it all again, some 39 per cent would have started a pension earlier or paid more into it. Many would have switched pension contributions into a savings account or an ISA investment, or paid the mortgage off much faster.

# Pensions are put under pressure

Mervyn Kohler, special advisor to Age Concern and Help The Aged, said: "Around 680,000 people are hitting retirement age this year, and more may be looking at buying an annuity earlier because they have been made redundant."

The downturn is savaging private sector pensions. Anybody with a £50,000 pension pot retiring in 2009 will be 27 per cent worse off – around £20 per week – than somebody who quit in 2008.

Laith Khalaf, pensions analyst at financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "Many firms are likely to follow Barclays and BP over the next two years, although the new BP scheme, with total contributions at 15 per cent of salary, will still be pretty good."

### Struggling

"As they see the markets recover, firms will close off final salary schemes to ensure they do not hit another downturn with that millstone around their necks."

Approaching 60, most people can do little about their pension income. By then, it's too late.

At 30 or 40, however, there is still time to make sensible financial preparations for old age.

If you start saving for a pension at 25, about 15 per cent of salary should go into a pension pot. At 35, it should be 20 per cent, and thereafter a higher percentage, the later you start.

In fact, the average contribution into private-sector pensions is barely 10 per cent – and two-thirds of private-sector workers have no personal pension scheme in place at all.

Here are the options for workers struggling to find value for money from a private-sector pension scheme:

- Give up – don't put a penny in your pension. Anybody retiring on the basic State pension (£95.25 per week) and no other savings can claim Pension Credit for £130 per week.

- Once you're in a pension scheme, stick at it – because your employer probably tops up your monthly contribution.

- However, if your employer's scheme isn't particularly attractive, put other money into an alternative savings vehicle – a tax-free ISA perhaps, or alternative personal pension, or even a Self Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) which allows a wider choice of funds, chosen with or without expert advice.

- Drawdown option: if your fund is a minimum £100,000 and you have other savings besides your pension, there may be a case for taking the 25 per cent tax-free lump sum on retirement and leaving the rest invested.

Then you buy an annuity at any time you like until the age of 75.

- Delay your State pension, rather than your private one. On your State pension, each one-year delay adds 10.4 per cent to weekly income – so a £100 pension is worth £110.40 if it was started a year ago. If you defer a State pension at 65 for one year, you make up all the money lost by age 76.

- Don't rush off to the public sector, where pensions provision is more generous and guaranteed by the taxpayers.

Even though five million public-sector workers are still guaranteed final salary pensions, there's a possibility hard-up governments will have to cut the 'perk' in due course because it will look ridiculously unfair compared to the problems already facing private-sector workers.



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# Golden times for savvy savers

BY JEREMY GATES

ANY savers and investors unsettled by the recent disagreement between the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor of the Exchequer over financial regulation might be consulting their budget-airline timetables.

It was confirmed last week that Germany will introduce gold vending-machines as a new method of storing wealth.

While gloomy Britons contemplate poor returns on cash and shares, shoppers at Frankfurt Airport can buy a one-gram wafer of gold for £25, or a 10g bar for £245 – with gold coins also available if required.

“German investors have always preferred to hold a lot of personal wealth in gold, for historical reasons. They have twice lost everything,” the owner of the firm installing 500 Gold to Go machines in German-speaking countries told the Financial Times.

But with gold prices from machines about 30 per cent higher than market prices for the cheapest product, even Germans – who bought 108 tonnes of gold in 2008, up from 36 tonnes in 2007 – might have doubts about this new scheme.

Few dispute, however, that gold has been a strong performer in recent financial earthquakes.

Adrian Ash, head of research at BullionVault, an online service for gold bullion investment with 14,000 private investors worldwide, said somebody selling a home at the average price in Britain in 2004 could have bought 695 ounces of gold (at £220 per ounce) with the cash.

Today, with gold up to £603 an ounce, they could buy the average-price home back for 253 ounces. Or they could sell all the gold to buy 2.7 average-price houses.

In the intervening period, of course, they would have needed to stay with friends or family. Even 695 ounces of gold doesn't put a roof over your head.

“Real interest rates in the UK have averaged just 1.8 per cent so far this decade – barely two-fifths the real return on cash in the 1980s and 1990s,” Ash explained.

“The gold price in sterling, in contrast, has risen four-fold and more, as money's come - petic - tive



BANKER: The financial attractions of gold investment are likely to increase

edge as a store of wealth has been steadily eroded. Physical gold ownership looks attractive to individuals worried about the future of savings.

“Gold's appeal is only likely to grow until real returns paid to cash turn sharply higher.”

Financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown (HL) leaves share tips off the front page of its latest newsletter to small clients, and makes a case for gold instead.

“Given the current economic environment, it is time to revisit the merits or otherwise of the ‘yellow metal’,” says HL's Richard Hunter.

“It has proved a remarkably resilient store of value over hundreds of years, and in addition is an asset where investors seek protection when they need it most.”

He notes the net inflow of funds into all types of gold investment soared 80 per cent to a record £18 billion in 2008, despite falling demand for gold jewellery in India and the Middle East.

Many of HL's small investors use the BlackRock Gold & General fund to gain exposure to gold markets. It holds shares in 40-70 companies, most of them gold producers.

“It is realistic to have five per cent of your long-term savings in this fund,” says HL's Mark Dampier.

“Gold may be a fickle animal, but given serious geopolitical and economic problems, there is reason to see gold prices going significantly higher from here.”

There are various ways for individuals to hold gold: Exchange Traded Funds, jewellery, coins (sovereigns or krugerrands) and bars, or derivatives which track gold prices among them.

Mining shares are another option. Hunter reckons a five per cent rise in gold prices triggers a 10-15 per cent hike in share prices, though this effect works equally strongly in the opposite direction.

At discount broker Killik & Co, analyst Mike Gilligan says: “Investor scepticism about the rationale for gold investment is valid, given that it is a non-income-producing asset hard to value from a fundamental perspective.

“However, the macroeconomic case for higher gold prices remains intact.”

“The recent spike in gold prices on the back of plans for US quantitative easing serves to reinforce our view that gold will serve as an insurance policy against inflationary pressures and/or economic dislocation.”

## Volatile

Gilligan thinks gold demand could soar if Japan and China eventually reduce their vast dollar surpluses.

Frank Cochran, at financial advisor FSC Investment Services, notes that BlackRock Gold and General has performed “out of its skin”.

“Available data suggests gold prices going higher from here,” he said.

“In a high-risk portfolio, we might have 25 per cent in this fund. Lower-risk investors prefer five-10 per cent. The fund is a long-term hold, for capital growth rather than income.”

The downside is that gold's price remains highly volatile: since February, for example, the price has dropped from £700 to £576 per ounce, a fall of 18 per cent.

If Chancellor Alistair Darling has it right, the ‘green shoots’ of recovery might return us to a financial world we know and understand.

If it doesn't, the attractions of gold are likely to increase, even if few of us are ready to buy at a vending-machine.

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# Red tape, a growing cost for businesses

BY ANDREW JONES

SMALL businesses in the South East lose more than £1.4 billion every year due to government red tape, new figures have shown.

Research carried out by small business lobby and support group the Forum of Private Business (FPB) found firms in the region spend around £1,403 million each year complying with legislation – the highest amount for any region in the UK.

The figure, drawn up using feedback from FPB members, means entrepreneurs in the South East face the biggest bill in the country for carrying out the paperwork associated with running a small business.

The £1.4bn figure for the region, based on the amount of company time and money spent complying with the rules, includes £309m spent on health and safety legislation, £361m spent dealing with paperwork on employment law and £37m on dismissals and redundancy.

The work associated with staff absences cost £59m, costs associated with maternity came in at £36m and the work related to disciplinary issues was worked out at £49m.



FPB spokesman Matt Goodman said: "Our research shows complying with red tape remains one of the major cost burdens facing smaller businesses, swallowing up valuable time and money that could be used more profitably elsewhere."

"In addition, at a time when protecting both workers and businesses should be a priority, regulations are increasingly burdensome as businesses take on more staff."

Micro businesses (zero to nine employees) spend an average of 33 hours per month complying with regulations, small businesses (10 to 49 employees) 48 hours per month and medium-sized companies (50 to 249 employers) 131 hours – equivalent to one full-time member of staff.

Employment law is the costliest bureaucratic burden, costing small businesses £2.4bn per year. Health and safety administration costs £2.1bn and tax £1.8bn per year, according to the FPB's research.

The average time per month spent on employment red tape (dismissals and redundancy, discipline, absence controls and management, parental leave, and holidays) is ten hours. For health and safety, it is eight hours.

Business owners spend an average of seven hours each month on tax administration, four on building and property regulations, four on standards, three on environment and waste regulations, and an hour per month on equality and diversity.

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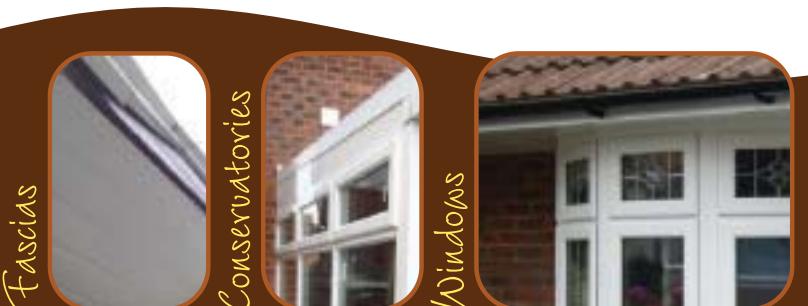


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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Making it your job

## How to convince companies you are the right person for the post

WITH jobless figures still rising, you never know when you might need to find a new job and it helps to have some expert advice on how to wow your next employer.

Damian Hayes, head of permanent IT recruitment at Bromley-based recruitment consultancy NetworkersMSB has some tips on how to nail your next role.

New research suggests that on average 16 people are chasing every job in the UK, up from a figure of 10 quoted by the TUC earlier this year.

The number of applicants for low-skilled jobs has also rocketed, with some advertisements attracting hundreds of candidates. Now more than ever it is important to make sure you stand out from the crowd.

Recruiters have seen a marked change in employers' demands lately; many are raising the bar higher than ever before.

Only last year, for example, candidates ticking eight out of 10 boxes for technical skills would have been offered the job but today, fulfilling the technical criteria is a given.

Employers are now placing just as much importance on how well you will fit in to their company and whether you have great communication and interpersonal skills.

### Gain a New Skill

If you have time to gain a new qualification or learn a new skill, it will often give you the edge over another candidate with equal experience.

Achieving an additional qualification shows drive and ambition and when companies are becoming leaner and every member of staff is vital, it demonstrates you have the necessary commitment and motivation to get the job done.

Options might be completing an industry or vocational qualification, a business diploma or degree, or simply bringing your IT or language skills up to date.

### Transferable Skills

Transferable skills are generic skills you are using every day, such as numeracy, IT literacy, sales or being able to work as part of a team.

Thinking about which of these skills you have might suggest alternative jobs that you could do or a different career path.

For example, someone with strong coaching or presentation experience could consider retraining as a teacher.

It is also worth considering other professions that use similar skill sets to your present job.

### Learn a Language

Being able to speak a language can put you at an advantage, particularly if you're applying to work for a global company or for a job

that involves travel abroad.

So, this could be the time to brush up on your schoolboy French or German.

### Added Value

Remember to sell yourself and not your job title on your CV. All too often CVs just list previous job titles and responsibilities.

Use the opportunity to illustrate the added value you brought to the role (and can bring to a new one) – such as by introducing a new system to save energy, improving filing, boosting productivity or simply just making the workplace run more smoothly.

Once you've made it to an interview then you have the chance to shine. Make sure you have a good knowledge of the company and its products or services.

Demonstrate a good understanding of what makes the firm tick – its values and ethos – and show how well you would fit into its environment.

### Looking Further Afield

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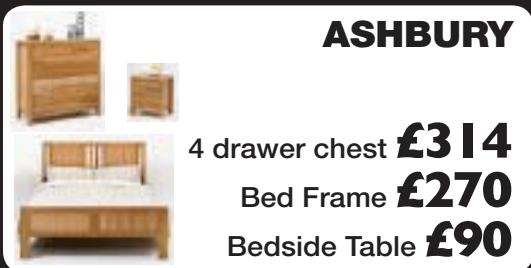
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Thinking of going it alone? We look at the pros and cons of setting up a small business in 2009.

## Essential guide to where you can save

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- Oliver Carpets is offering five per cent off when you spend over £250
- Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £25 off removal of skin tags, moles, verrucas, warts, red veins, cysts and skin peels
- KOS is offering a Swarovski Crystals Double Heart Pendant for £29.99
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By **TONY PATEY**

BUSINESS owners and managers across Kent are reducing costs, becoming more transparent, and investing in customer service in a bid to keep clients happy and avoid losing valuable business.

That's the picture revealed by new research from independent invoice financier Bibby Financial Services.

While it's not surprising that nearly two thirds (61 per cent) of business owners in the South East are actively pursuing new business as a priority to ride out the downturn, many (55 per cent) appreciate the importance of protecting existing revenue by upping customer service levels.

### Transparent

And, more than a third (42 per cent) of the region's business owners are actually increasing their spending on hospitality as a means of retaining existing customers.

In fact, with 44 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses in the South East under pressure from customers to reduce their costs, more than half (56 per cent) of business owners were in the process of trying to balance the books by negotiating better terms with their own suppliers.

The research also revealed one in three business owners in the South East are now more transparent with clients and customers, for example giving them an insight into future business plans.

Despite their best efforts to take control of



**KEEPING GOING:** Business owners and their managers are reducing costs as they try to keep hold of customers through the current economic climate. Research has also revealed that more than half of businesses (55 per cent) were appreciating the importance of protecting their existing revenue by improving their levels of customer service (far right)

their firm in these unsettling times, effectively managing late payment and improving cash flow is still a major concern for 60 per cent of SME owners in the region.

Bibby Financial Services South East spokesman Andy Leopold said: "The drive for new business is all very well, but not if you're putting your all-important existing client base at risk at the same time.

"While it's promising to see the measures South East businesses are putting in place to survive the recession – ones which will also set them in good stead for long-term success – it is clear cash flow is still a major priority for businesses.

"Although the Government has now introduced several measures aimed at increasing cash flow to small businesses, few of them really seem to be taking hold, not least because the banks are themselves still strug-

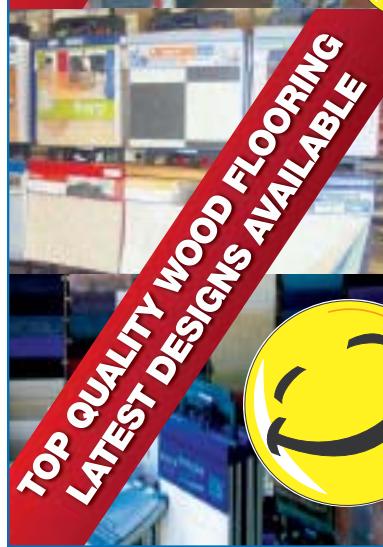
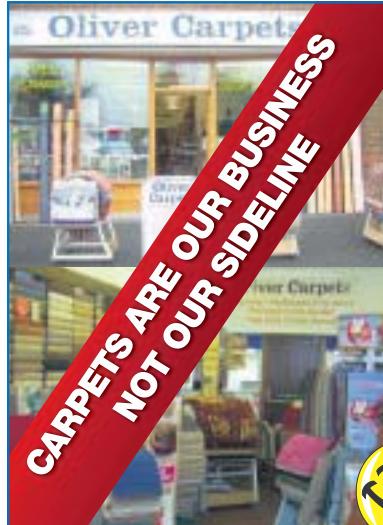
gling with liquidity issues.

"The important thing is for business owners in the region to look at all aspects of their cash flow situation, whether they need to tackle increasing late payment, or whether they need to change their pricing structure to stimulate client interest."

In most cases, newer business owners, for example those operating since 2006, are more likely to be open and transparent with clients and customers about their situation and future business plans, and least likely to be making changes in relation to cash flow.

Indeed, business owners without experience of previous recessions are least prepared to reduce costs for clients or customers.

In contrast, those who've been running their business for longer and have experienced several other recessions are more likely to view financial changes as a way to get



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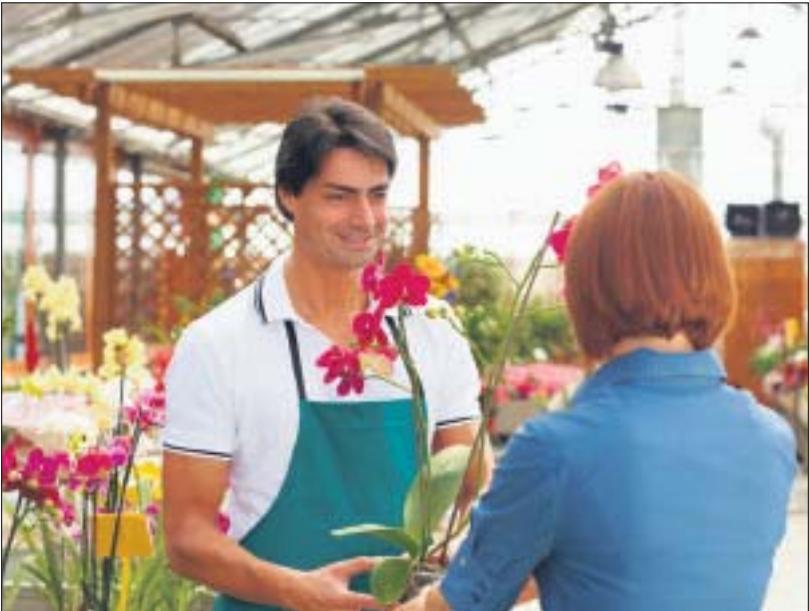
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their business through the recession.

When it comes to business sectors, those in transport are most likely to be following the cash is king mantra, with 86 per cent looking at managing late payment and improving cash flow, compared to just 46 per cent in the hotel and catering sector.

Mr Leopold said: "Irrespective of your experience, whether you're a new business owner or more practised, cash flow should always be your key priority.

"It is worth looking at all potential ways to

improve this, whether it be taking measures to improve client retention, negotiating supply chain deals, or even simply reviewing your finances.

"Taking steps such as talking to your bank to apply for an increased overdraft facility – though at the moment this could be easier said than done – or looking at other cash flow options, such as invoice finance, which frees up the value held in your outstanding invoices, will ensure you are able to focus efforts on getting your business through the recession."

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- Hobbs Parker in Ashford is offering good quality second hand cars from £500
- Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £45
- Rochester Court Kitchens in Rochester is offering 20 per cent off solid wood kitchens
- KOS is offering a Garden Sonic Blaster for £29.99
- Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all parts and accessories

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

BY STEVE LOADER

IT MIGHT sound mad to buy a new car during a recession.

But with savings accounts earning so little, you will be surprised by what you can earn by waving your wad around in the car trade, where business has plummeted over the past year.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme launched in May (see later story), but there have been hefty discounts available on most new cars for months now – whether you have a 10-year-old 'scrapper' to trade or not.

### Discounted

Even if, after raiding the bank account and teasing the dealer, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any little add-ons you might fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying a car on 'run-out', where production or importing ceased a while ago, or one with the wrong engine.

After all, with fuel prices continuing to be volatile, you don't want to trade in your old gas guzzler for another just as bad.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars will always devalue – unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.



**GO GREEN:** Enjoy the space and luxury of a greener big car like the new Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX rather than downsize, but check the higher purchase cost against lower running costs – you might be better off with the conventional Insignia equivalent

On the other hand, review what you have to part-exchange; you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax might also favour downsizing to a more efficient motor – gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but road tax is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be

tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version of the same car.

The eco supermini might save you £105 in road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on heavier diesel equivalents.

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# Government's scrapheap challenge has taken flight

BY STEVE LOADER

IT WAS a dodgy take-off, but the Government's £2,000-a-go incentive to scrap older cars in return for new ones is now flying.

Applications have boomed, prompting fears that the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March.

There is some talk of a top-up donation, but if you are considering swapping your banger then get your new car order in now – firm orders will be honoured even if the delivery of the new car is delayed.

The donor car must have been registered before August 31, 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

For their part, carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to contribute half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no longer a big deal when interest rates are so low.



**BUDGET BUYS:** The Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme has made newly-arrived small hatchbacks like the exotic Alfa Romeo MiTo (above) and Nissan Pixo city car (left) attractive to budget-conscious motorists with a banger to trade in

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and it is tempting to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if you're not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will

have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

## Essential guide to where you can save

- JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order over £7,000
- Living Out log cabins shop in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering 10 per cent off everything
- Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off all garden furniture
- Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories
- Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used
- Decorators Choice in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all paints
- The Orchard Restaurant in Maidstone is offering Kids Eat for Free
- Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £20 off air conditioning
- KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit at £99.99 including free accessories, save £116 on RRP
- KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available
- KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP
- KOS is offering big button digital cordless phone for just £24.99, save £20

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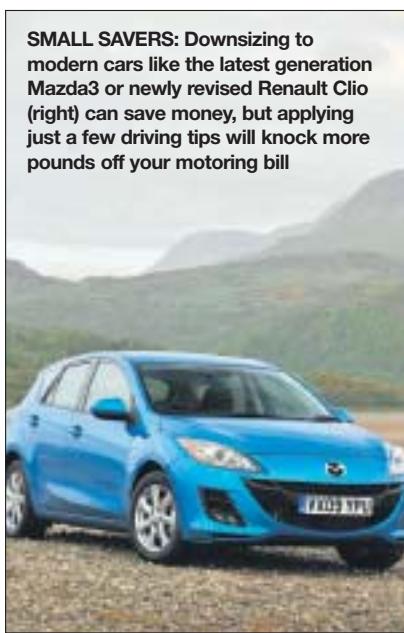
# Drive smarter to save more

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car should be just part of your master plan to cut the motoring budget.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short car journeys also mean extra servicing and more engine wear.

**SMALL SAVERS:** Downsizing to modern cars like the latest generation Mazda3 or newly revised Renault Clio (right) can save money, but applying just a few driving tips will knock more pounds off your motoring bill



BY STEVE LOADER

If you must drive then follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.
- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.
- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.
- Accelerate briskly without



racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.
- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and cleaner.
- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.
- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?
- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.
- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.

Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering Personalised Weekender Bags for just £29.99
- Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering a free set of maps with any new car purchased before the end of September
- Robins and Day Canterbury Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99, and service and MOT from £119.99
- Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs
- Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half-price MOT with a service
- Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items
- Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent discount on all room hire
- Village Hotelin Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub
- Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra 10 per cent off all sofas with this voucher
- Linwood Electronics in Rainham is offering £100 off a Panasonic G10series Plasma when you trade in your old TV
- Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning service for just £79.95+vat

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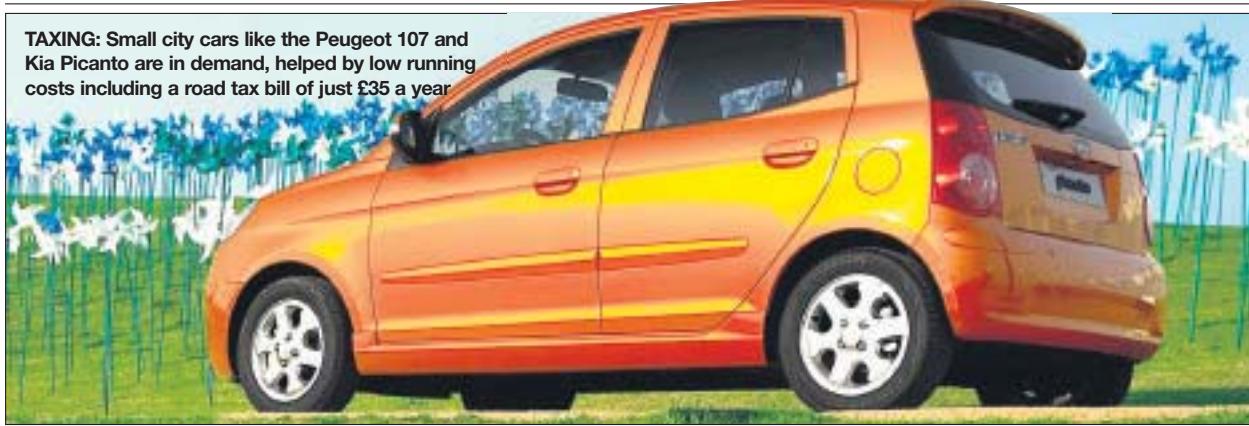
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## Duty calls for more savings

BY STEVE LOADER

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you

### ROAD TAX BANDS

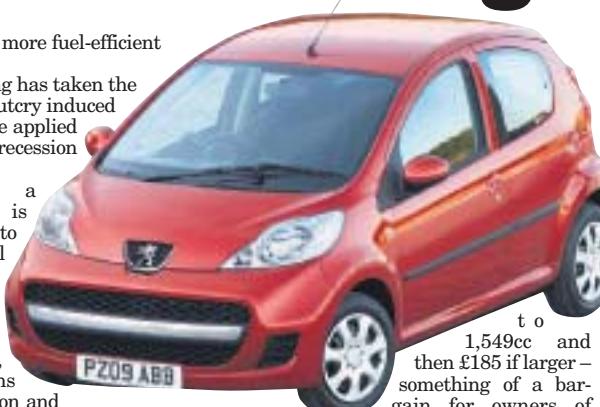
Band A (0-100g/km of CO <sub>2</sub> )	£0
Bands B and C (101-120g/km)	£35
Bands D and E (121-140g/km)	£120
Band F (141-150g/km)	£125
Band G (151-160g/km)	£150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km)	£175
Band J and K (181-225g/km)	£215
Band L (226-255g/km)	£405
Band M (255g/km plus)	£405

plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up



to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Gold Care Petrol or Diesel, £169

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off its garden furniture range

■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

■ Living Out log cabins store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range of log cabins

■ Motoline Renault Motor Dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Bradgate Park Luxury Holiday Homes in Margate is offering free Sunday lunch for two when you view the holiday homes

■ Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster Glare Shields from £14.99

To get these offers go to:

[www.vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://www.vouchersforkent.co.uk)

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- INSPECT TYRES AND SET PRESSURES
- REPORT ON TYRE TREAD DEPTH
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- REPORT ON TYRE TREAD DEPTH
- VISUALLY CHECK COOLING SYSTEM FOR LEAKS
- CHECK ANTIFREEZE CONTENT
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- CHECK BATTERY CONDITION
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- DRAIN AND REFILL WITH ENGINE OIL
- FIT NEW SUMP PLUG WASHER (WHERE FITTED)
- FIT NEW ENGINE OIL FILTER
- CHECK BRAKE PIPES AND LINES
- CHECK EXHAUST SYSTEM
- INSPECT TYRES AND SET PRESSURES
- REPORT ON TYRE TREAD DEPTH
- VISUALLY CHECK COOLING SYSTEM FOR LEAKS
- CHECK ANTIFREEZE CONTENT
- CHECK DRIVE BELTS (EXCLUDES CAM BELT)
- CHECK ALL FLUID LEVELS
- CHECK BATTERY CONDITION
- VISUALLY CHECK FRONT PADS AND DISCS
- CHECK SUSPENSION DAMPERS
- ADD SCREENWASH AND TOP UP FLUIDS (EXCLUDES ANTIFREEZE)
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## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

### THE WIRE

BBC2, 11.20pm, Wednesday  
From 1.20am, Sunday morning

CRITICS the world over put The Wire up there as one of the finest shows ever to hit TV screens.

Many say it is the best, full-stop. It's a fine body of work, of that there can be no doubt.

Centering on the complex story of Baltimore's drug-addled streets, action focuses mainly on those peddling the narcotics and those charged with bringing law and order back to the housing projects.

It's a complex, intricate world, as the show exposes the hypocrisy and injustice of life for all people caught up in the tangled web.

As a counterpoint to this, each series delves a little deeper into one specific aspect of that world.

Series one focused on the streets, while the second looked at the city docks and its longshoremen as they set about importing and distributing the white stuff – often at odds with the very core of their blue-collar union values.

Series four looks at the effect on the school system, while five examines the reporting of crime by newspaper the Baltimore Sun.

On BBC Two we are on series three as it tickles the sordid underbelly of politics in Baltimore.

It is a rich and fascinating look at the balances struck and compromises made as the bodies pile up amid brutal violence.

What's special is that this is probably a lot closer to what goes on than many of us would feel comfortable with.

The writers never feel the need to explain every plot nuance, nor do they scrimp on the realism.

'Get it and come along for the ride' is



**HARD-HITTING:** Crime series The Wire has received many plaudits for its realistic approach

the message and if you can't keep up then just don't bother.

At times touching and at others downright barbaric, it's a *tour de force* that never dips into anything below brilliant.

The Wire deserves its place among the all-time crime greats such as The Sopranos but, as ever, the TV schedulers have done their best to annoy viewers by hiding this away and showing it at different times and dates.

My advice, if you love TV, is to buy yourself the DVD box set, settle down on the sofa and let all five series wash over you in your own time.

If you want a quick taster, dip your toe into the waters via BBC Two to help you decide if you do want to splash out £80-odd of your hard-earned on the whole collection.

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## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT

### AQUARIUS

(Jan 21-Feb 19)  
THE spiritual satisfaction you've been seeking could finally arrive. You've finally come to terms with the fact you need more personal time to pursue your favourite hobbies. If this means setting aside a secluded work area or getting up early to work on a project, so be it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

### TAURUS

(Apr 21-May 21)  
YOU could win a publishing contract, legal settlement or long-running dispute. This welcome turn of events lets you move on to bigger and better things. Take this opportunity to look for a job in keeping with your skill set. Good news about a relative or neighbour is music to your ears.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

### LEO

(Jul 24-Aug 23)  
YOU'RE finally seeing the results of a rigorous health regimen. Take this opportunity to add some fashionable items to your wardrobe. Fortunately, a nice little earner will come your way. It will require lots of personal sacrifice, but the results will be worth it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

### SCORPIO

(Oct 24-Nov 22)  
LEARNING a new skill will make it much easier to get a stable, well paid job. Take a course to learn accounting, construction or counselling skills. It may take a few months to get your certificate, but stick with it. A supportive relative may be willing to finance you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

### PISCES

(Feb 20-Mar 20)  
A CHERISHED wish is about to be granted and it's all thanks to a supportive friend, business partner, or lover. Don't hesitate to accept their generosity. Nobody realises dreams alone. The strength of having faith in yourself plays an enormous part in your success.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

### GEMINI

(May 22-Jun 22)  
A HEAVY flirtation could finally be consummated. If you're already in a relationship, your amour could get a raise, giving you more money for luxuries. Take this opportunity to buy something you will use on a daily basis. Funds could also become available will bring you long-term security.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

### VIRGO

(Aug 24-Sep 23)  
MAKE an effort to finish a writing, painting, or film project. Alternatively, think about starting a family or moving home. Taking on a new responsibility will give you great joy. If you're looking for work, explore opportunities related to travel, education, or publishing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23-Dec 21)  
MONEY from something you did a long time ago could finally arrive. Put the cash towards advancing your career in some way. Getting expert training will help you rise through the ranks of your preferred industry. You could be soon be recognised as a genuine creative talent.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

### ARIES

(Mar 21-Apr 20)  
YOUR spell in the spotlight comes to a successful finale. A boost in status could be coming your way. Nobody could accuse you of being the recipient of random good fortune; your victory is the result of hard work and discipline. Take your bows and then spend more time with friends.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

### CANCER

(Jun 23-Jul 23)  
AN engagement, wedding, or business deal will go off without a hitch and having someone by your side to stand up for you and support you will make your daily life much easier. If you aim to buy or sell a house or apartment get the help and advice of a professional or lawyer.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

### LIBRA

(Sep 24-Oct 23)  
THINKING about buying or selling property or doing your place up? Whatever your plans might be they will re-establish a comforting security and help you plan more constructively for the future. If a relative plans on getting professional help for a problem give them your support.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

### CAPRICORN

(Dec 22-Jan 20)  
THE results of a personal improvement project are impressive. Thanks to your hard work, you'll be able to expand your horizons in some material way. Travelling, writing, practicing law are all possibilities open to you in one way or another now. You'll never know unless you try.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7



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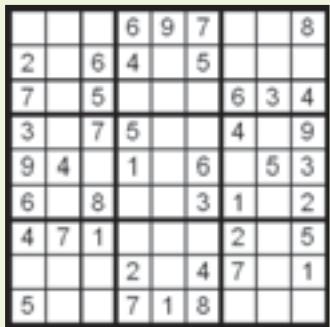
## CROSSWORD &amp; SUDOKU

No95

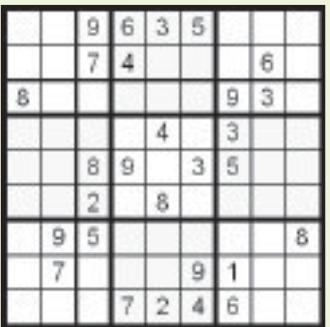
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

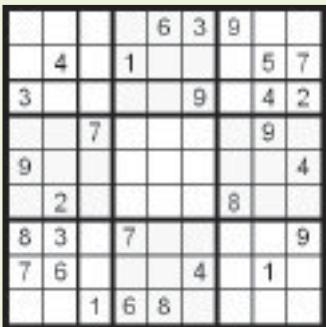
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



## CRYPTIC CLUES

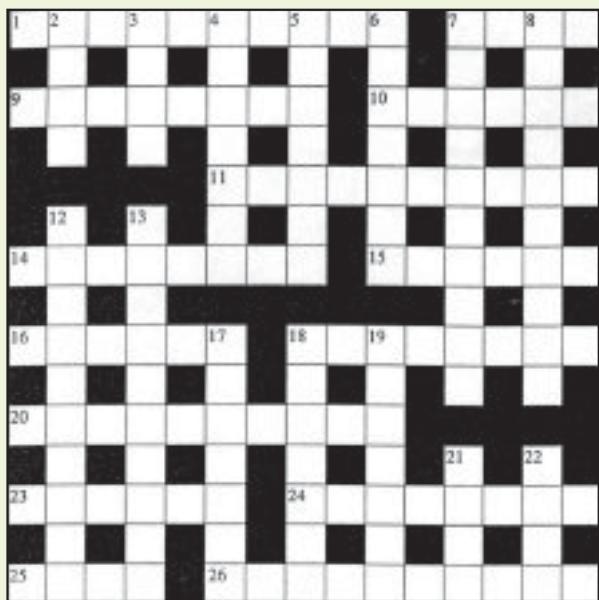
## ACROSS

- 1 Start too soon in spring hunt eg confused (4,3,3)
- 7 Use one's teeth when about to cut (4)
- 9 A cod Anna prepared for low creature (8)
- 10 The merchant was booked in Italian city (6)
- 11 Fair and honest transaction by old-fashioned port (6,4)
- 14 Three-monthly perhaps (8)
- 15 Leg you injured whilst writing in praise of another (6)
- 16 Some most affable island (6)
- 18 Rescue rope found in one's palm (8)
- 20 Clever with cash that's a wise investment (5-5)
- 23 Prefer taste that's not left inside (6)
- 24 Supercilious horseman (8)
- 25 Describe devil trapping venerable saint (4)
- 26 Does it have a circle of members? (6,4)

**DOWN**

- 2 Skeletal part of incomplete lunar construction (4)
- 3 Choose to be a guitar player? (4)
- 4 Worker's lad personally involved (5-2)
- 5 Advancing slowly when it isn't steep (7)
- 6 Overturned vehicle, rear damaged, in northeastern Spain (7)
- 7 May two ladies have bell-shaped flower? (6,4)
- 8 Was substituting bartering (10)
- 12 Coppers Thomas manufactured built to a client's order (6-4)
- 13 Neutral area at railway terminus? (6,4)
- 17 Married frenzied lover (7)
- 18 Design etched on floor-covering first (7)
- 19 What bird will do at motorway intersection (7)
- 21 Man having cold drink first (4)
- 22 Some nutritious items are included in it (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



## QUICK CLUES

## ACROSS

- 1 Leave from work (10)
- 7 US tramp (4)
- 9 \_\_\_\_ Juillet, Bastille Day (8)
- 10 Gaoler (anag.) (6)
- 11 Run-down car (4,6)
- 14 Felled (8)
- 15 Distend (6)
- 16 Part of speech (6)
- 18 Go across (8)
- 20 Steeplechase rider (4-6)
- 23 Encipher (6)
- 24 New (8)
- 25 Gloomy (4)
- 26 Rotting (10)

## DOWN

- 2 Cuckoo-pint (4)
- 3 Tub (4)
- 4 Small moth (7)
- 5 Folded (7)
- 6 Readable (7)
- 7 Flying machine (10)
- 8 Sterility (10)
- 12 Chaparral cock (10)
- 13 Dogmatic (10)
- 17 Binge (5-2)
- 18 Escort (4,3)
- 19 Amenity (anag.) (7)
- 21 Record (4)
- 22 Beige (4)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No94

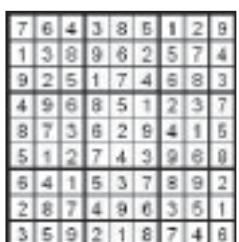
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

## CRYPTIC SOLUTION No94

**ACROSS:** 1 Ice-skating 6 Swap 9 Voice 10 Oath 11 Star 13 Light as a feather 14 Exhuming 16 Idiocy 18 Paling 19 Queendom 22 Job satisfaction 24 Milk 25 Smug 26 Ionic 27 Soya 28 Brute force. **DOWN:** 1 Involve 2 Eying 3 Kleptomaniac 4 Thousand 5 Notify 7 Watchword 8 Portray 12 Handkerchief 15 Hillbilly 17 Buffnig 18 Pyjamas 20 Manacle 21 Zimmer 23 Inner. 24 Berries 25 Creased 6 Legible 7 Telecopier 8 Totebag 9 Totebag 10 Totebag 11 Totebag 12 Roadster 13 Peremptory 14 Totebag 15 Totebag 16 Totebag 17 Totebag 18 Take out 19 Amytine 21 Dose 22 Fawn.

## QUICK SOLUTION No94

**ACROSS:** 1 Subbuteo 7 Hobo 9 Outrage 10 Glitter 11 Rusty basket 14 Poleaxed 15 Epsilon 16 Leaver 17 Traverser 20 Jumps 21 Pothole 22 Dredge 24 Original 25 Grey 26 Jockey 27 Eroded 28 Dredge 29 Dredge 30 Dredge 31 Dredge 32 Dredge 33 Dredge 34 Dredge 35 Dredge 36 Dredge 37 Dredge 38 Dredge 39 Dredge 40 Dredge 41 Dredge 42 Dredge 43 Dredge 44 Dredge 45 Dredge 46 Dredge 47 Dredge 48 Dredge 49 Dredge 50 Dredge 51 Dredge 52 Dredge 53 Dredge 54 Dredge 55 Dredge 56 Dredge 57 Dredge 58 Dredge 59 Dredge 60 Dredge 61 Dredge 62 Dredge 63 Dredge 64 Dredge 65 Dredge 66 Dredge 67 Dredge 68 Dredge 69 Dredge 70 Dredge 71 Dredge 72 Dredge 73 Dredge 74 Dredge 75 Dredge 76 Dredge 77 Dredge 78 Dredge 79 Dredge 80 Dredge 81 Dredge 82 Dredge 83 Dredge 84 Dredge 85 Dredge 86 Dredge 87 Dredge 88 Dredge 89 Dredge 90 Dredge 91 Dredge 92 Dredge 93 Dredge 94 Dredge 95 Dredge 96 Dredge 97 Dredge 98 Dredge 99 Dredge 100 Dredge 101 Dredge 102 Dredge 103 Dredge 104 Dredge 105 Dredge 106 Dredge 107 Dredge 108 Dredge 109 Dredge 110 Dredge 111 Dredge 112 Dredge 113 Dredge 114 Dredge 115 Dredge 116 Dredge 117 Dredge 118 Dredge 119 Dredge 120 Dredge 121 Dredge 122 Dredge 123 Dredge 124 Dredge 125 Dredge 126 Dredge 127 Dredge 128 Dredge 129 Dredge 130 Dredge 131 Dredge 132 Dredge 133 Dredge 134 Dredge 135 Dredge 136 Dredge 137 Dredge 138 Dredge 139 Dredge 140 Dredge 141 Dredge 142 Dredge 143 Dredge 144 Dredge 145 Dredge 146 Dredge 147 Dredge 148 Dredge 149 Dredge 150 Dredge 151 Dredge 152 Dredge 153 Dredge 154 Dredge 155 Dredge 156 Dredge 157 Dredge 158 Dredge 159 Dredge 160 Dredge 161 Dredge 162 Dredge 163 Dredge 164 Dredge 165 Dredge 166 Dredge 167 Dredge 168 Dredge 169 Dredge 170 Dredge 171 Dredge 172 Dredge 173 Dredge 174 Dredge 175 Dredge 176 Dredge 177 Dredge 178 Dredge 179 Dredge 180 Dredge 181 Dredge 182 Dredge 183 Dredge 184 Dredge 185 Dredge 186 Dredge 187 Dredge 188 Dredge 189 Dredge 190 Dredge 191 Dredge 192 Dredge 193 Dredge 194 Dredge 195 Dredge 196 Dredge 197 Dredge 198 Dredge 199 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# It's downhill (nearly) all the way

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

A 300-MILE bicycle ride in the searing summer heat of southern France, with only a bottle of Fanta and a banana for fuel, is few people's idea of a civilised holiday.

Yet touring the Perigueux prefecture of France's Dordogne region for seven days, we would change hotel every couple of nights, our luggage following safely behind in a van.

Heaving our bags into his van, our Headwater rep made it clear that we could stop worrying about unforeseen circumstances. For the next seven days, the only variable was the weather.

The Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling trip has been running for 10 years and pedalled into perfection.

Our detailed itinerary gave a choice of two different routes each day. Depending on our energy levels, and how much fried duck and red wine we'd had the night before, we would cycle anything from 12 to 25 miles per day.

Our rep, sweetly, gave us a real ordnance survey map, but in reality, comprehensive printed instructions with diagrams from Headwater were far too user-friendly to resist.

This part of France is ideal for those new to cycling holidays.

The routes are quiet and made up almost entirely of back roads, well-maintained farm tracks and cycle paths.

There are also plenty of hills of varying difficulties. Once I'd discovered the joy of the cycling up a hill, getting a hit of endorphins and then whooping my way down the other side, there was no stopping me.

After a few days, I found myself looking forward to steep inclines.



**REWARD:** Pedalling up a steep hill is worth it when a view like this is waiting for you at the top

Free from transport restraints, high on exercise and blessed with perfect weather, we really did feel as though we'd been tapped with the holiday fairy's wand.

In fact, our only real responsibility was to find the hotel marked in the itinerary every other evening. And that wasn't difficult.

Cycling for four hours every day also meant that we felt guiltless about eating plenty of food. We'd happily consume a large dish of pan-fried duck with olives from a roadside restaurant at lunch, before sitting down to four courses in the evening just hours later.

When we needed a break from our saddles, there was usually something a little bit special on the horizon. As well as the countless chateaux, and wonderful restaurants, this area is also the home of Cro-Magnon man, one of the earliest recorded humans.

The site of Lascaux, close to the delightful town of Montignac, is where 17,000-year-old cave paintings were discovered almost 70 years ago. Unfortunately for tourists, these prehistoric images are now carefully protected from carbon-dioxide damage, and only copies are on public display.

## FACT FILE: FRANCE

Time difference	+One hour
Capital	Paris
Climate	Temperate
Population	62.5 million
Currency	£1 = 1.4 Euros
Religion	Catholic
Language	French

## Travel details

Sarah O'Meara was a guest of Headwater Holidays on a Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling Tour, packages available from May to September from £1,098 to £1,227 per person (child £699 all season) for self-drivers who go by Eurotunnel. Prices for air-rail packages (based on Gatwick-Toulouse by BA) range from £1,199 to £1,299 (child £849 all season). Tour only prices: £1,049 to £1,179 (child £679). Singles: add £25 per night. Package includes half-board accommodation, bike hire, local transfers, maps and route notes, bag transport, 24-hour emergency support. Headwater reservations: 01606 720 033 and [www.headwater.com](http://www.headwater.com).



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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Couples forced to stay together by recession

DESPITE the start of an economic recovery the recession is still making life hard for couples wanting to move on after divorce according to family lawyers.

Resolution, which represents 75 family lawyers in Kent, says continuing problems in the housing market are preventing divorcing couples from moving to separate accommodation.

Family lawyer Daniel Bennett, of East Kent Resolution, said: "Selling the family home is often an important step for couples and their families making the transition from one home to two after divorce.

"But with limited mortgage deals, the increase in unemployment, and one in ten homeowners now in negative equity, selling up or moving on is easier said than done for many couples."

To help people in this situation, Resolution is today launching a series of online hints and tips for couples "living apart together" ahead of a national conference on family law in London.

These include trying to agree some ground rules, getting short breaks from one another and playing fair in regard to new partners or relationships.

But most importantly, don't lose heart, no recession lasts forever.

### Repossession predictions are not looking so bad

GOOD news has come to those who are struggling to meet their mortgage payments following an analysis of the market by experts in lending.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has cut its repossession forecast as experts say lower interest rates and Government initiatives were helping people stay in their homes.

The group has revised its prediction for repossession during 2009 to 65,000 from a total of 75,000. But the figure is still the highest for 17 years and nearly two-thirds higher than the 40,000 people who lost their homes in 2008.

The group said rising unemployment would lead to an estimated 360,000 people falling into mortgage arrears of at least 2.5 per cent of their outstanding debt during 2009. Although its revised forecast is 15 per cent lower than the previous one, the figure still represents a doubling in the 182,600 of homeowners at this level at the end of last year.

Analysts said record low interest rates were making it easier for households who lost their incomes to keep up with their mortgage, while they also meant people built up arrears more slowly.



# Constructive approach to affordable housing

AS PART of the Government's Building Britain's Future plans, Housing Minister John Healey has announced that the construction of thousands of extra homes will begin in a matter of months.

The news comes after a £1.5 billion housing investment was revealed by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The Housing Pledge places councils centre-stage and involves building more homes more quickly. It is also aimed at creating thousands in the construction industry.

Changes to the rules for allocating housing will also give councils a bigger role in meeting the needs of people in their area. The pledge also includes commitments to improve access to social housing by providing tenants with more choice over the properties available, and commitments to clamp down on those cheating the system, so that more properties are available for those who play by the rules.

The cash boost will deliver an additional 20,000 new, affordable, energy efficient homes

■ BY NICK AMES

over the next two years, with a further 10,000 delivered through the private sector.

Councils and housing associations will both have a key role in delivery of the new affordable homes.

The money will also extend the programme to get stalled housing projects back on track and prepare public sector land for construction of new homes as well as provide up to 45,000 new jobs in the construction industry.

#### Boost

The announcement came the day before Mr Healey outlined proposals to allow councils to keep all the proceeds from their own council house sales, as well as their rents.

Mr Healey said: "The Prime Minister's housing pledge is a huge boost to efforts to build the homes the country needs now and in the future. This investment will help fast track construction and I want to see work starting on site within the next few months.

"Alongside the significant increase in hous-

ing stock we will also work with councils to ensure the social housing system is responsive to local priorities and preferences.

"Together, these announcements signal my intention to get local authorities involved in delivering the housing their area needs.

"Councils haven't built significant numbers of houses for a long time, but with this extra cash and an overhaul of the council house funding system I am giving councils the green light to start building more homes.

"And we are putting our money where our mouth is to fund new housing association developments, get mothballed housing projects back on track, and free up public land for more affordable homes.

"In these tough economic times this is also a much needed shot in the arm for the construction industry creating 45,000 new jobs in Britain that will be key to the country making the most of the recovery over the next few years.

"When people see these new homes being built in their communities they need to believe that they or people they know have a fair shot at living in them."

# Developer builds bridges with mouse community

HOUSEBUILDER Ward Homes is protecting dormice at its development in Boughton Monchelsea by helping them to safely cross the road.

The dormice were discovered before construction of The Woodlands, a development of one and two-bedroom apartments and three-bedroom houses located just off Brishing Lane. Ward Homes has installed a specially constructed bridge, suspended between two telegraph poles, which allows the dormice to cross the road without danger.

Together with the site's ecological contractor, Keystone Environmental, Ward Homes has installed a galvanised mesh cylinder, the most ecological material to use for this construction.

The bridge has been made more attractive to the dormice by being filled with a variety of native climbing plant species, such as honeysuckle. The plants are also encouraged to grow up and along the bridge as a habitat for the mice and to enhance the structure. There is also a large funnel at each end of the bridge to help them find the entrance.

In addition to the bridge, Ward Homes has planted a hedge along Brishing Lane to further develop the dormouse habitat.

Tim Nabbs, sales director for Ward Homes, said: "We feel it is of paramount importance to protect and preserve wildlife wherever we develop. Habitat fragmentation is a particular problem for dormice because of their reluctance to cross sections of open ground, so the bridge really is a tremendous benefit for them. It mimics tunnels found in their natural setting and is a safe way for them to travel.

"We choose the locations for all our developments with considerable care and are fully committed to enhancing the surroundings, making the most of natural features, such as mature trees and hedgerows.

"Our planners work closely with councils and the local community to identify sustainable solutions and our homes are consistently built on brownfield sites."

The Woodlands is a development just five miles from Maidstone.

HomeBuy Direct, the Government's scheme to help people move onto and up the property ladder, is available on selected properties at The Woodlands. It gives homebuyers the chance to move in for only 70 per cent of the purchase price.

Ward Homes will match the Government's



**SKYWAY:** A tunnel filled with climbing plants has been suspended between telegraph poles for the dormice funding pound for pound in the new venture to provide an equity loan to the homebuyer of up to 30 per cent. The buyer finances the remaining 70 per cent either through a mortgage, a deposit, or a combination of the two.

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\* Source: 113 offices across the southeast, Apr-May 2009 compared to Apr-May 2008



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### WHYTE CLOSE OIEO £215,000

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### CAPEL STREET £265,000

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### HYTHE £179,995

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### KINGSNORTH GARDENS £174,995

This is a stunning ground floor apartment in the West End of Folkestone. With off-street parking and attractive rear gardens. Also, the added benefit of no forward chain.

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### LYMPNE £179,995

Situated in the attractive village of Lympne, this detached bungalow has lots on offer. Two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen & bathroom with no forward chain.

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### ETCHINGHILL £237,500

This is a must view four bedroom detached family home in Etchinghill. Lounge, conservatory, off-street parking for four cars and attractive front and rear gardens.

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### RIVER OIEO £130,000

Attention All Investors - NO CHAIN - 3 bedroom semi detached house. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and Lean to. Family bathroom. Rear garden.

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### EYTHORNE OIEO £245,000

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### LYDD £164,995

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New Romney 01797 363194



### LITTLESTONE £210,000

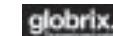
Tucked away in the corner of a cul de sac, light and airy three bedroom detached bungalow which benefits from a conservatory and gardens extending to all sides, garage.

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**£99,950**

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**£99,995**

Two bedroom terrace house with double glazing, gas central heating and rear garden. Ideal first home or investment.



**£107,500**

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**EYTHORNE**

**COMING SOON**

**OIEO £130,000**

COMING SOON. Three bedroom semi detached, 2 receptions offered for sale with no chain. In need of modernisation.

**WHITFIELD**

**OIEO £137,500**

Two bedroom terrace house with conservatory, central heating, DG, garden, garage. Viewing recommended.

**LYDDEN**

**£145,950**

Two bedroom semi detached chalet bungalow, two receptions, utility room, DG, gas central heating, gardens.

**ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE**

**£159,950**

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**RIVER**

**£162,500**

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**DOVER**



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**RIVER**



**£239,000**

Three bedroom extended semi, en-suite and dressing room to master. DG, gas central heating, garage and gardens.

**WHITFIELD**



**£279,950**

Three bedroom detached house with two reception rooms, en-suite, conservatory, garage and gardens. No chain.

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**FOLKESTONE**



**£99,950**

One bedroom ground floor flat in West End of Folkestone. Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom/WC.

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**£129,950**

Two bedroom end of terrace house, gas central heating, enclosed rear garden, off road parking. Viewing recommended.

**FOLKESTONE**



**£145,000**

Four bedroom, three storey maisonette, two reception rooms, original features, GCH, share of freehold & no chain.

**FOLKESTONE**



**£149,995**

COMING SOON. Two bedroom terrace house, two receptions, DG, gas central heating, rear garden with workshop.

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**FOLKESTONE**



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**FOLKESTONE**



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## Westbrook Gardens, Westbrook



- Selection of 2 Bedroom Apartments
- Integrated Appliances
- Short Walk To The Beach

From.....£550pcm

## Hereson Road, Ramsgate



- 3 Bedroom House
- Perfect Family Home
- Split Over 3 Floors

From.....£600pcm

## Dane Road, Margate



- Spacious 2 bedroom apartment
- First Floor
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From.....£500pcm

## Northdown Road, Cliftonville



- Brand new 2 bed apartment
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- DSS Accepted

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- 2 Bedroom apartment
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- DSS Accepted

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## Redhill Road, Westgate



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- Available August 09

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## MOTORS NEWS



### Ford dealers make most of Scrappage scheme

FORD'S car business is on the scrap heap, with UK dealers taking an amazing 300 orders daily under the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme.

Buyers get at least £2,000 back if they consign their 10 or more-year-old banger to the crusher in return for buying a new car.

Ford's big seller is the Fiesta, from £8,595 under the scheme with the Ka city car next (pictured right), from £6,595.

Ford says the scheme is also delivering 'conquests' to its dealers; only half of cars surrendered are Fords.



### Nissan building on scrap deal to boost profits

NISSAN has picked up the Scrappage ball and run with it by offering a £2,000 minimum trade-in on 8-10-year-old cars as well as 10-year-old bangers targeted by the Government.

And this deal has been extended until September 30, 2009 for customers buying models built at Nissan's Sunderland plant – the Qashqai (pictured left), Note and Micra (right) – so it also benefits recession-hit UK PLC directly.

Under either scheme, a new car can cost as little as £5,995, in the case of the Micra supermini.



### Fiat lifts lid off remake of classic 50s open-top

FIAT has paid further homage to its original 1950s 500 Nuovo by launching a chic convertible version of the current and retro-styled 'Cinquecento'.

And the UK – a major market for open tops – is the world's first to get the new Fiat 500C, a recycling of the 1957 fabric roof Fiat 500.

While using the original's roll-top canvas roof format though, the newcomer is a thoroughly modern interpretation, but commands a £3,000 premium over its hatchback sister, with prices from £11,300 (1.2 Pop 500C).



**SOUND KOREA MOVE:** The new Hyundai i20 may not match the excellent Ford Fiesta but it is superb value for money and comes with the usual five-year warranty

# Supermini highlights advances by Hyundai

## ROAD TEST

### HYUNDAI i20

■ BY STEVE LOADER

#### STAR QUALITY

##### Driving appeal



##### Image



##### Space



##### Value



##### Running costs



##### Reliability



##### Green rating



full complement of airbags, air con and glove box cooler, electric front windows plus fully adjustable wheel and driver's seat – all from £8,195.

Under the Government sponsored Scrappage scheme for owners of cars ten or more years old; qualifying i20 buyers can also save some £3,000 by trading in a banger.

But they may miss the 'wow' factor of buying a more modern motor for the i20's chassis balances comfort and sporty, yet falls short of the driver feedback of sophisticated rivals like the Fiesta.

And the interior is robust with nice touches, but even lively upholstery in our mid-range Comfort trim test car failed to lift a slightly dour atmosphere, though you do get a USB link for your MP3 player/iPod at this level.

Of the three engine options, discount the 75bhp 1.4-litre diesel tested here (from £10,145); the front wheels can scrabble under initial acceleration in wet conditions, yet it runs out of puff later and generally feels heavy and lumpy in such a small car.

It also adds £1,000 to the price of the equivalent 99bhp 1.4-litre petrol, while the even cheaper (by £500) 77bhp 1.2 petrol is peppy, economical and easily the best drive.



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MORE ROAD TESTS  
BY STEVE LOADER @  
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Chevrolet range fuel consumption in mpg (L/100 km), urban 40.9 (6.9) to 26.4 (10.7), extra urban 67.3 (4.2) to 38.7 (7.3), combined 54.3 (5.2) to 32.8 (8.6) the official co2 emission is 119 to 225 g/km.

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# USED CAR ROUND-UP:

## OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

### RECESSION BUSTING/COUPÉS

STILL want fun at a recession-busting price? How about our pick of affordable coupés? They all cut a dash for a lot less cash, but each offers a different approach ranging from the no-nonsense Coupé from Korea's Hyundai, through Citroën's Gallic take on the three-door 'coupé' cum family hatchback format to a classic yet still attainable thoroughbred from Italy's Alfa Romeo. None should break the bank on running costs either, especially as two are available with diesel power, and yet all deliver the rewarding drive expected of a coupé.

#### ALFA GT



THERE is the sense that Alfa Romeo's dark days of rusting and reliability problems are gone, yet doubts remain in the minds of some used car buyers – good news for anyone prepared to take a calculated risk on the sporty yet practical GT. Slinky styling disguises what is actually a spacious 2+2 with a decent hatchback, plus a range of engines from sensible to mad, including some tweaked versions of smooth and refined diesels courtesy of Alfa's Fiat parent.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

#### CITROËN C4



CITROËN really needed to pull off something special when it launched its current family hatch. So the C4 is a far better car than the dull Xsara it replaced and the three-door 'coupé' has one of the most individual looks on the road. Rakish and racy lines are abruptly curtailed by a chopped and glassy rear end. Balancing such curvaceous yet brutal styling, the C4 offers affordable sportiness, handling and riding well without the irritating quirkiness of old-style Citroëns.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

#### HYUNDAI COUPÉ



ONCE Hyundai sorted out the glitches of early generations, the brand's 'budget four-seat coupé' proposition was bound to take off. The latest version is beefier and smarter and confirms what great value the Korean sportster is. The chassis cannot rival key competitors, but delivers lots of fun for a modest outlay. For 0-60mph in 8.2 seconds, there is also the 2.7 V6 version and you are sure to find many Coupés with some of Hyundai's generous five-year warranty still intact.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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For an application pack please contact Caroline Stark on 01634 884511 or e-mail [caroline.stark@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:caroline.stark@midkent.ac.uk)

**Closing date: Mid-day July 15th 2009**

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Completed application forms to be received not later than 10am 10th July, interviews will be held 17th July at Swale Carers Centre.

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Closing date for completed applications is 13th July 2009

The above post are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Disclosure being obtained from the Criminal Records Bureau.



Strode Park Foundation, Strode Park House, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NE  
Tel: 01227 373292 • [www.strodepark.org.uk](http://www.strodepark.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 227794

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For example next year nearly every commercial property with air-conditioning must have an Assessment before the January 2011 deadline.

Applicants are therefore required to train now as multi-skilled 'Property Professionals' to carry out commercial and air-conditioning Energy Assessments and many other roles such as Flood and Fire Risk Assessments, Energy Audits, Insulation Surveys, Property Valuations, Home Condition Reports, Public Buildings Assessments etc.

No previous experience is necessary, training to join this new growth industry can usually be taken around current job at our nationwide training centres approved by the Government-appointed Awarding Body for the Built Environment and is subsidised. On qualifying start your own energy business, work for other Assessment Providers or be available for potential full or part-time work through our Energy Assessor Panel with earnings of £50 to £1,200 per Assessment.

ref: HK260

Ring today for an interview and find out more about a career opportunity in this fast-expanding, new 'green' industry.

**020 8335 1700**

## BE A 'PROPERTY PROFESSIONAL'

Regardless of the recession, a new European Directive now legally requires an estimated 2.5 million homes and commercial properties being rented, sold or built to have an Energy Assessment this year alone. And more 'green environmental' laws are coming!

For example next year nearly every commercial property with air-conditioning must have an Assessment before the January 2011 deadline.

Applicants are therefore required to train now as multi-skilled 'Property Professionals' to carry out commercial and air-conditioning Energy Assessments and many other roles such as Flood and Fire Risk Assessments, Energy Audits, Insulation Surveys, Property Valuations, Home Condition Reports, Public Buildings Assessments etc.

No previous experience is necessary, training to join this new growth industry can usually be taken around current job at our nationwide training centres

approved by the Government-appointed Awarding Body for the Built Environment and is subsidised. On qualifying start your own energy business, work for other Assessment Providers or be available for potential full or part-time work through our Energy Assessor Panel with earnings of £50 to £1,200 per Assessment.

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**PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS**



ref: HK280



## MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

### Management Information Services Data Administrator Ref: P0652

**Salary: £10,181 - £17,750 per annum**

We are looking for an individual to collect and enter data efficiently and assist with the running of the Management Information Services department. The successful candidate will have data entry and administrative experience. In addition, knowledge of current legislation regarding Data Protection and Equality would be beneficial.

**Closing date: Friday 17 July 2009**

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk)

For an application pack and further details visit [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk) or e mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk) alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 884402.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

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## MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns  
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### Programme Area Leader in Catering and Hospitality Ref: P0544

Salary: £30,204 - £33,935 per annum

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to provide support to the Head of School on all Staffing, Student, Curriculum and Quality issues. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning, have experience of the industry and have good negotiating/communication skills. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

### Lecturer in Biology

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to teach on and participate in the development of a range of Biology courses on Access, A levels and BTEC. The successful candidate will hold a relevant degree in Biology and possess or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are looking for an individual with the passion to motivate our learners within their chosen field.

### Lecturer in Sport

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

### Lecturer in Health Care

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the delivery of a range of Health Care programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

### Lecturer in Performing Arts

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking for an experienced, creative and dynamic individual to work as a course tutor within the Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be involved with the development of the department, driving forward new ideas and must be able to demonstrate innovative ways of working and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

### Departmental Administrator

Salary: £12,795 £16,059 per annum/pro rata

Full time – Medway Campus

Part Time – Maidstone Campus

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

**Closing date: Wednesday 8 July 2009**

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbl.co.uk](http://www.rbl.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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## Career Opportunities

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08/145

### Lecturer Public Services

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

09/36

### Lecturer Public Services

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

09/37

### Lecturer Performing Arts -Drama and Musical Theatre

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

06/182

### Lecturer Chemistry

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

09/39

### Lecturer Plumbing and Gas Fitting

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#### Electrical/Electronic Engineering

#### Building Surveying - AutoCAD

S/HE

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

S/NT

#### Supply Lecturer Nail Technology

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#### Learning Support Independent Living and Leisure Skills

09/34

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#### Trainer Demonstrator Theatre Costume and Props Construction

09/40

18.5 hours per week, salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

07/49

#### Business Development Administrative Assistant

37 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 per annum

#### Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

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S/NVQ/EY

Play work

S/NVQ/PW

Nail Technology

S/NVQ/NT

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

S/TD/BT

#### Supply Trainer Demonstrator Beauty Therapy

Various hours available, salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

S/RA

#### Supply Recreation Assistants

Various hours available, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum

08/22

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on 01/07/2009, by Creditors and

Creditors. Dated 01/07/2009.

STEPHEN PAUL GRANT and

ANTHONY MALCOLM CORK,

Joint Liquidators

T263062

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Company No. 02668659

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We, Stephen Paul Grant and Anthony

Malcolm Cork, of Wilkins Kennedy,

Bridge House, London Bridge London

SE1 9QR, give notice that we

were appointed joint liquidators

of the above named company

on 01/07/2009, by Creditors and

Creditors. Dated 01/07/2009.

STEPHEN PAUL GRANT and

ANTHONY MALCOLM CORK,

Joint Liquidators

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# Century gives Sandwich something to Singh about after beating Oystermen

## CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

### Kent League Division One

Sandwich Town 1st XI v Whitstable 1st XI

AN UNBEATEN century from Vishaul Singh helped Sandwich Town on their way to a narrow two-wicket win against Whitstable at the weekend.

Singh crashed 115 not to see his side over the line with just an over to spare. The home side won the toss and put the opposition in to bat at The Butts and the decision looked a good one when Craig Spanton dismissed Max Campbell (1) and Sam Denly (4) with just seven runs on the board. Peter Eames hit 21 to steady the ship until he was run out. Craig Snell was

then introduced first change and had the Oystermen reeling at 58 for 6 when he removed Nadir Rasheed for ten and Ben Trott for one.

Whitstable's Stuart Sinclair hit back for the visitors, putting on an invaluable 117-run partnership with James Mills. Sinclair went on to register an unbeaten 95 from 105 balls, but a spell from Jack Bradley saw him pick up two wickets, including Mills for a valiant 26 as Whitstable scored 183 for 8.

In reply, Sandwich also found the wicket a tough one to negotiate and slumped to 95 for 6 with Whitstable opening bowler Jason Logan in inspired form, claiming 3 for 24.

Rhys Jones managed to stick around and stay with Singh who crashed 115 not out to help steer Sandwich close to their total. However, Whitstable refused to give up and when Josh Gould picked up the wickets of Jones for 22 and James Bolt (4), the game was back in the balance. But Craig Spanton hit 16 at number nine to help Singh cross the line.



TOP KNOCK: Vishaul Singh struck an unbeaten 115 to help Sandwich to victory

## LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

### KENT LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Bromley Common 1st XI v Sibton Park 1st XI

SIBTON Park were edged out by 11 runs in a low scoring game at Bromley Common.

The home side were all out for 182 with Steven Rowe, Tim Smith and Andy Allon all among the wickets for Sibton Park. Allon then went on to hit 46 at the top of the innings for the visitors but he ran out of partners as Sibton's batters found the going tough against a rampant Bromley attack. Ben Allon (35) and Steven Rowe (38) gave the innings late impetus, but when they were out the game was over for Park.

#### Bromley Common

	Runs	
Rob Williams	ct Carberry b Rowe	24
Jay Mannall	ct Hobbs b Lewis	8
Robbie Harris	lbw b Allon	29
Jody Mason	lbw b Rowe	0
Julian Roach	st Hobbs b Allon	45
Ben Cole	ct Hobbs b Smith	45
Jamie Walker	ct Hickmott b Smith	16
Lee Hall	lbw b Rowe	32
David Luxford	lbw b Smith	6
Greg Robey	not out	4
Matt Walker	ct Rowe b Smith	2
Extras	(2lb 10w 2nb)	14
Total	(all out, 49.4 overs)	182

#### Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Steven Rowe	13	5	40	3
Trevor Lewis	10	3	26	1
Sam Newman	3	0	19	0
Andy Allon	9	1	45	2
Tim Smith	14.4	2	50	4

#### Sibton Park

	Runs	
George Leadbetter	ct Harris b Walker	10
Andy Allon	lbw b Walker	46
Jamie Keeler	run out	1
Ben Carberry	lbw b Mannall	0
Steve Hickmott	lbw b Mannall	0
Ben Allon	ct Hall b Robey	35
Steve Hobbs	ct Hall b Robey	12
Steven Rowe	ct Harris b Mannall	38
Sam Newman	not out	13
Tim Smith	lb Mannall	3
Trevor Lewis	lb Mannall	1
Extras	(4lb 3w 5nb)	12
Total	(all out, 48 overs)	171

#### Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Matt Walker	10	3	32	1
Greg Robey	13	2	51	2
Jay Mannall	13	1	38	5
Jamie Walker	9	3	37	1
Lee Hall	3	1	9	0

### KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Old Brockleians 1st XI v Bettleshanger Colliery Welfare 1st XI

BETTES enjoyed a comfortable victory after winning the toss and putting the opposition in to bat. With the wicket offering encouragement to the quick bowling of Andy McNicholas and Jamie Towe, Old Brocks lost an early wicket before Danny Hazelton (17) and Paul Reeves (40) dug in to ride out the early threat.

The wickets began falling but really went into free fall as the last five batsmen fell without scoring in two overs.

In reply Bettles made steady progress, losing Chris Garton, but Clive Towe (28 not out) and Liam Collins (72 not out) eased Bettles over the finishing line for an emphatic win.

#### Old Brockleians

	Runs	
Danny Hazelton	ct & b Jones	17
Ainsley Dummer	ct A McNicholas	14
Paul Reeves	ct Fletcher b C Towe	40
Ollie Barnes	lb Jones	0
Manesh Karunala	st Joffy Towe b C Towe	11
Braam Alberts	ct Joffy Towe b Jamie Towe	20
Sam Gardiner	ct Garton b M McNicholas	14
Eddie Holder	c & b Jamie Towe	0
James Bates	not out	0
Andy Cripps	ct B M McNicholas	0
Devon Carr	ct Joffy Towe b M McNicholas	0
Extras	(8b 3lb 5w)	16
Total	(all out, 38 overs)	132

#### Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Andrew McNicholas	11	2	42	1
Jamie Towe	8	2	16	2
Derek Towe	1	0	1	0
Clive Towe	12	2	33	2
Martin Jones	5	0	29	2
Michael McNicholas	1	1	0	3

#### Bettleshanger Colliery Welfare

	Runs	
Clive Towe	not out	28
Chris Garton	ct Barnes b Cripps	8
Liam Collins	not out	72
Jamie Towe	did not bat	
Andrew McNicholas	did not bat	
Joffy Towe	did not bat	
Derek Towe	did not bat	
Michael McNicholas	did not bat	
Darren Fletcher	did not bat	
Martin Jones	did not bat	
Edward Dadd	did not bat	
Extras	(8b 14w 3nb)	25
Total	(1 wicket, 30 overs)	133

#### Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
James Bates	8	2	21	0
Andy Cripps	6	0	21	1
Sam Gardiner	3	0	19	0
Devon Carr	6	0	17	0
Ollie Barnes	4	0	26	0
Ainsley Dummer	2	0	16	0
Eddie Holder	1	0	5	0



### KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Deal Victoria 1st XI v Cowdrey 1st XI

DEAL Victoria put their season back on track with a convincing win over league leaders Cowdrey.

Put in to bat, Vics lost Mark Birkett and Andrew Furness early but skipper Matthew Carley led the way with 102, but more importantly partnerships where formed to help them to 280 for 8.

In reply, Scott MacNamara and Stephen Moran bowled with great control and the frustration began to show and when Charles Mailli and Graham MacNamara came into the attack wickets fell steadily. Scott MacNamara was the pick of the bowlers with 3 for 34 as Vics won by 145 runs.

#### Deal Victoria & Barns Close

	Runs	
Andrew Furness	run out	12
Mark Birkett	ct Lewis b Jones	4
Charles Mailli	st Roberts b Sullivan	56
Matthew Carley	ct Fenwick b Warner	102
Stephen Moran	ct Roberts b Marshall	17
Sam Killip	ct Roberts b Jones	20
Andrew Miller	ct Warner	30
Robbie Braman	not out	5
Scott MacNamara	ct Marshall b Jones	4
Ben Martin	not out	0
Graham MacNamara	did not bat	
Extras	(5b 13lb 12w)	30
Total	(8 wickets, 46 overs)	280

#### Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Rob Fenwick	9	3	24	1
Chris Jones	12	2	87	3
Phil Sullivan	6	0	35	1
Sebastian Lewis	8	0	47	0
Gary Marshall	3	0	19	1
Glen Warner	8	1	20	2
Andrew Hammond	b S McNamara		15	
Lewis Wright	ct Furness b S McNamara		4	
Glen Warner	b Mailli		23	
Jack Southwart	ct Moran b S McNamara		23	
Jonathan Owen	ct Moran b S McNamara		13	
Chris Jones	st Furness b G McNamara		7	
Sebastian Lewis	b Mailli		2	
Andy Roberts	c & b G McNamara		29	
Gary Marshall	not out		13	
Rob Fenwick	not out		1	
Phil Sullivan	did not bat		5	
Extras	(1lb 4w)		5	
Total	(8 wickets, 46 overs)		135	

#### Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Scott MacNamara	12	1	34	3
Stephen Moran	8	2	31	0
Charles Mailli	12	3	41	2
Graham MacNamara	8	3	21	3
Ben Martin	2	1	4	0
Sam Killip	3	2	2	0
Robbie Braman	1	0	1	0

Photo: GOKKUPOCO

## SCOREBOARD

### Whitstable

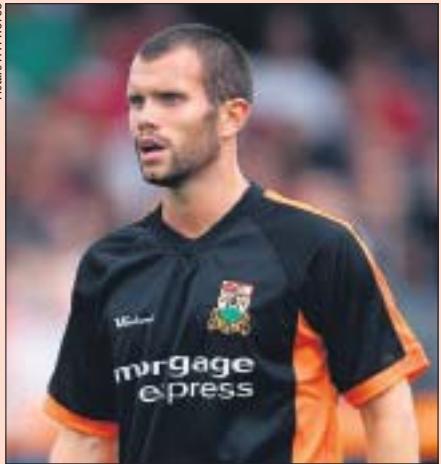
	Runs	
Max Campbell	b Spanton	1
Peter Eames	run out	21
Sam Denly	b Spanton	4
Nadir Rasheed	ct Bradley b Snell	10
Stuart Sinclair	not out	95
James Loader	lbw b Spanton	3
Ben Trott	Snell	1
James Mills	b Bradley	26
Josh Gould	b Bradley	4
Jason Logan	not out	0
Duncan Hardy	did not bat	
Extras (3b 5lb 7w 3nb)		18
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)		183

### Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Craig Spanton	15	5	40	3
Jack Bradley	10	2	41	2
Craig Snell	15	2	53	2
Matthew van Poppel	10	1	41	0
Extras (10b)				10
Total (8 wickets, 49 overs)				187

### Sandwich Town

<tbl



**TRANSFER TARGET:** Former Barnet striker Adam Birchall could be the next player to join the thriving Whites this summer

## Hess targets ex-Barnet ace

### FOOTBALL

ANDY Hessenthaler is hoping to hold talks with striker Adam Birchall this week in a bid to sign the former Barnet forward.

The Dover boss is looking for a striker to add to his side's fire power and has earmarked Birchall, who was released by the League Two club in May, as a potential target.

The 24-year-old, from Maidstone, began his career as a trainee at Arsenal and has more than 100 Football League appearances to his name.

After leaving the Gunners, Birchall joined Mansfield Town before signing for Barnet, where he scored 17 goals in two seasons at Underhill.

With Frannie Collin, Shaun Welford and Lee Browning already signed up, Hessenthaler believes Birchall could significantly add to his attacking options.

He told Yourdover: "Adam is certainly one of the players we will be talking to. I have been speaking to him recently and I have known him for a while now."

"We know all about his ability and he has shown what he can do in the Football League."

The club made their third signing of the summer last week with AFC Wimbledon midfielder Tom Davis putting pen to paper in a one-year deal.

The Whites will begin their Blue Square South campaign with a trip to Maidenhead on August 8, followed by consecutive home games against Bishops Stortford and Dorchester Town.

### CATCH OF THE DAY



## Mackerel showing in clearer waters

By TONY HILLS, a keen beach and boat angler with 50 years' experience fishing Dungeness and District and vice-chairman of the Dungeness Angling Association

WITH the water clearing and the 'May' water disappearing we can at last move into summer. Mackerel are beginning to show in the west bay as the water clears and calms.

**PIRATE SPRINGS AND LITTLESTONE:** Great high water venue for bass, eels, and flatties on lugworm and fish baits.

**DUNGENESS:** Depending on the wind direction, back of the boats will fish for bass and early sole. The Dungeness beach and the back of the power station could be the best spot for bass through low water and the rise. Sand eel and worm baits tipped with fish should be best.

**DENGE MARSH:** If we have a light south westerly it should fish well including some decent sole, if they can get past the nets, coming on a rising tide.

**GALLOWAYS:** Depending on the tide, this venue provides superb evening fishing great for bass and the odd smooth hound as well as mackerel. Try using sand eels or 'blueys' for a change. Check the firing times.

**JURYS GAP:** On a rising tide and over high water for bass eels and mackerel – they were caught there last week – and as the summer progresses we might see the odd black bream at range.

**BOAT FISHING:** Lots of mackerel about, otherwise boat fishing pretty poor except out on the banks. The Bullock bank is producing plaice to 4lb, good dabs and black bream. We are still waiting for the water to clear down below.

# Gills head to town to help bolster coffers

### FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

**FOLKESTONE** Invicta will receive a welcome boost to their troubled finances this weekend with a rearranged visit from Gillingham as the pre-season schedule gets underway.

The League One side were due to send a side of fringe players and youngsters later this month – as they did last summer – but circumstances have now changed. The Gills were due to kick-off their pre-season this weekend against Tonbridge Angels but with concerns over their pitch at Longmead they cancelled the fixture.

The Seasiders, who came within hours of going into administration last week, are set to reap the benefits. Mark Stimson will now bring his first-team to the Buzzlinses Stadium, which should attract a big crowd for what is the Gills' first game since winning the League Two play-off final at Wembley in May.

Mark Patterson, head of Gillingham's Centre of Excellence and a former Invicta assistant boss, was delighted to be able to help out one of his former clubs.

He said: "We had a gap in our fixtures and we were aware of the difficulties Folkestone



Picture: IGOR KUPCO



Picture: ADY KERRY

**BOOST:** Folkestone Invicta's coffers will be swelled this weekend with a rearranged friendly against a Gillingham first-team which should include star players like Andy Barcham (right)

are facing, hopefully this will make a few quid for them. It's nice we can do something to help them out.

"It does hurt when you see one of your former clubs in trouble because down in the non-league 90 per cent of players do it for the love of the game. This is a chance to do our bit and hopefully with the first-team coming down it'll be a decent crowd."

The game will help ease the club's short-term cash flow problems while they continue talks with a potential new investor.

Last week, director Bob Dix revealed to Yourshepway that administration had been at least temporarily averted by the emergence of a new figure, but nothing concrete has yet been agreed.

Saturday's game kicks off at 3pm.

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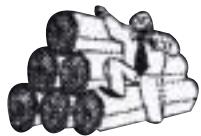
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